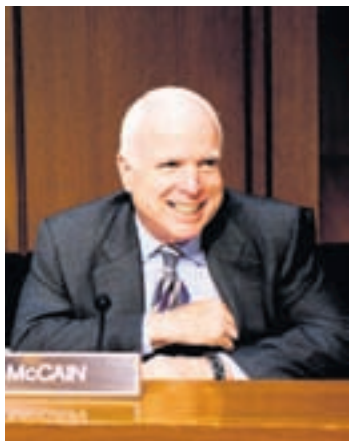


RAISING McCain

DAVID M. HERSZENHORN

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MOSCOW - In a combative essay published on Thursday in the online newspaper Pravda, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., declared himself to be "pro-Russia" but delivered a blistering attack on President Vladimir Putin, describing him as



Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) sits before a Senate meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington. (C. Gregory/The New York Times)

presiding over a failed petro-state, a quasi-dictator who rules "by corruption, repression and violence." McCain's article was intended to answer an opinion column by Putin that was published in The New York Times making the case against President Barack Obama's threatened military strike on Syria. The article on Sept. 12, in which Putin presented Russia's position as defending international law and respect for state sovereignty, generated fierce debate, including both praise and accusations of hypocrisy. While Putin's article focused more generally on U.S. foreign policy, McCain, who has long been a sharp critic of the Kremlin, focused squarely on the Russian president.

Continued on Page 3



House To Vote On Stopgap Funding Bill, 'Obamacare'

Speaker of the House John Boehner, R-Ohio, talks to reporters about the looming deadline to fund the government and the fight among House Republicans, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013. House Republicans vowed to pass legislation that would prevent a partial government shutdown and avoid a historic national default while simultaneously canceling out President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, inaugurating a new round of political brinkmanship as critical deadlines approach.

(AP Photo/J. Applewhite)

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Congress lumbered awkwardly Thursday toward legislation to avert a partial government shutdown, but not before politicking that appeared to keep that prospect alive. Republicans in the House of Representatives planned a vote Friday on a temporary spending bill to fund the government until Dec. 15 — but would also kill President Barack Obama's signature health care overhaul. The health care pro-

vision, though, has almost no chance of passing the Democratic-led Senate. And Obama said Thursday he will veto it if it does. That could create an impasse that leads to a shutdown. But more likely, Republicans will eventually accept the Senate version of the funding bill — with the health care measure stripped out of it. Republican leaders are wary of being blamed for a shutdown. And avoiding this fight would also allow them

to focus on a bigger battle later this year over raising the government's borrowing authority. "There should be no conversation about shutting the government down," said House Speaker John Boehner, top Republican in Congress. "That's not the goal here." Republicans fiercely oppose the health care law, which requires all Americans to buy health insurance, as a government intrusion into private decision making. But Boehner and

other Republican leaders had resisted efforts by their conservative rank and file to use the spending bill to defund the Affordable Health Care Act, better known as "Obamacare." By setting the vote Friday, Boehner is making a concession to the conservative wing while kicking the battle over to Senate Republicans. "It's time for the Senate to have this fight," Boehner said.

Continued on Page 5

Japan:

PM wants Fukushima plant entirely scrapped

MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

OKUMA, Japan (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ordered the operator of the country's crippled nuclear power plant on Thursday to scrap all six reactors at the site instead of just four already slated for decommissioning and to concentrate on tackling pressing issues like leaks of radioactive water.

After taking a firsthand look at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, however, Abe insisted that radioactive water had been contained at the complex and said he would fend off "rumors" regarding Fukushima's safety.

Following a three-hour tour of the plant, Abe instructed its operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co., to decommission the No. 5 and 6 reactors, which survived the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. The disaster caused three other reactors to melt and damaged a fuel cooling pool at another. TEPCO has been unsure about what to do with the two surviving reactors, leading some to believe that it may be hanging on to hopes of resuming their operation.

"I told (TEPCO) to ensure decommissioning of reactors No. 5 and 6 so that they can concentrate more on dealing with the accident," Abe told workers and reporters as he wrapped up the tour at the plant's emergency command center.

TEPCO President Naomi Hirose told Abe that a deci-

sion on the reactors would be made by the end of the year, the prime minister said.

Abe said he urged TEPCO to ensure it has enough funding on hand to take

ma's cleanup will be far more difficult than after the Three Mile Island nuclear accident in the United States in 1979.

The prime minister said he stood by the reassurance

handled," Abe said.

Officials have acknowledged that radiation-contaminated groundwater has been seeping into the Pacific Ocean since soon after meltdowns and ex-



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, second right, wearing a red helmet, is briefed about a chemical dam by Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant chief Akira Ono, second left, as he inspects an area along the coast between the No. 1 and No. 2 reactors during his tour to the tsunami-crippled plant in Okuma, Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013.

(AP Photo/Japan Pool)

care of urgent work needed to clear the way for the plant's decommissioning, and that Hirose promised to obtain 1 trillion yen (\$10 billion) in addition to a similar amount it has already set aside.

Decommissioning multiple melted reactors is an unprecedented challenge, and experts say Fukushi-

about Tokyo's safety that he gave to the International Olympic Committee before the city of 35 million was awarded the right to host the 2020 summer games earlier this month.

"One of the main purposes of this visit was to see it for myself, after I made those remarks on how the contaminated water has been

plosions crippled the plant following a massive earthquake and tsunami.

Abe said he was convinced that all of the contaminated water had been contained.

"In light of that, I will work hard to counter rumors questioning the safety of the Fukushima plant," he said. □

Greenpeace says Russian armed men storm ship

MOSCOW (AP) — The Russian Coast Guard on Thursday violently stormed a Greenpeace ship protesting oil drilling in Russia's Arctic waters, the environmental group said.

The boarding of the Arctic Sunrise took place a day after two activists were arrested by the Coast Guard following an attempt to board an offshore drilling platform belonging to state natural gas company Gaz-

prom, the group said in a statement.

About 15 armed men boarded the Arctic Sunrise, aggressively herding 29 activists, including the two activists arrested earlier, into one compartment. The vessel's captain was held separately on the bridge, Faiza Oulahsen, one of the activists aboard the vessel, said.

"They used violence against some of us, they

were hitting people, kicking people down, pushing people," she said in a phone call from the ship.

The Greenpeace ship is in the Pechora Sea, an arm of the Barents Sea.

Sergei Tsyplenkov, head of Greenpeace Russia, said in a statement that the Coast Guard "effectively seized the ship," arguing that they had no legal grounds to do so.

The Coast Guard is part of

the Federal Security Service, the main KGB successor agency. Its local branch for the Arctic Murmansk region said in a statement carried by the Interfax news agency that its personnel boarded the ship using helicopters. It said that the vessel will be brought to the port of Murmansk following a search. A spokesman for the Federal Security Service in Moscow refused to comment. □

IMF urging U.S. to break budget crisis stalemate

MARJORIE OLSTER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde urged the U.S. on Thursday not to "put a brake on this beginning of recovery" by failing to resolve an impasse over the budget and cutting back government spending too deeply. Sharp criticism of the across-the-board federal spending cuts imposed in March and known as sequestration has been a theme of Lagarde's speeches over the past months. She told the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington that the budget cutting now underway in the U.S. in this "blunt and relatively blind way caused by sequestration, among other things, is excessive." She said U.S. economic growth this year, expected to be below 2.0 percent, is weaker than the IMF wants to see. And she said the heavy budget cuts were the main reasons for weak growth this year. Lagarde also said the IMF expects U.S. growth to accelerate next year by about 1 percentage point.

But even with that acceleration and signs that Europe is emerging from its long recession, she said the IMF sees subdued global growth ahead.

Advanced economies are in a better place than they were six months ago. But developing countries that helped keep the global economy afloat during the recent economic crisis are now slowing down, the IMF chief said. She spoke a few weeks before the IMF is to release its latest global economic forecasts ahead of the lending agency's semiannual meeting in Washington next month.

Lagarde also said the fight over the budget and over raising the debt ceiling in Congress are potentially destabilizing. "It is essential to resolve this — and the earlier the better — for confidence, for markets and for the real economy," Lagarde said. □

McCain sharply criticizes Putin in editorial rebuttal

Continued from front

In his introduction, though, he first made an effort to dispel the idea that he is anti-Russia, a perception that is widespread here.

"I am not anti-Russian," McCain wrote. "I am pro-Russian, more pro-Russian than the regime that misrules you today."

"I make that claim because I respect your dignity and your right to self-determination," he continued, addressing the Russian people. "You should be governed by a rule of law that is clear, consistently and impartially enforced and just. I make that claim because I believe the Russian people, no less than Americans, are endowed by our Creator with inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." McCain wrote that he did not believe a Russian citizen could publish a similar criticism of the government, though, in fact, criticism of the government appears frequently in the Russian press and especially online, where there is generally no censorship.

Although the government maintains fairly strong control over what is shown on the major television stations, particularly in news reports, commentary in print and on the Internet is often critical of Putin and the government.

Putin, speaking Thursday at a briefing with academics and policy analysts, ridiculed McCain for submitting the article to Pravda, which he suggested was proof that the U.S. senator was locked in an outdated Cold War mindset.

"I think that he has a certain deficit of information about our country," Putin said.

"And the fact that he wanted to be published in Pravda, not any other publication, apparently he wants to be published in a most authoritative publication with big circulation," Putin added, mockingly. "Of course, Pravda is a respectable publication of the now oppositional Communist Party, but its level of

distribution in the country is minimal."

Putin insisted that there was nothing anti-American in his article in the Times,

made his remarks. At the same time, Putin raised his own complaint with a Cold War edge.

"Once we were promised

en a promise, though it was not registered anywhere. And now, where is NATO? And where is the border? We were simply duped."

authority over them. They punish dissent and imprison opponents. They rig your elections. They control your media. They harass, threaten, and banish organizations that defend your right to self-governance. To perpetuate their power they foster rampant corruption in your courts and your economy and terrorize and even assassinate journalists who try to expose their corruption. They write laws to codify bigotry against people whose sexual orientation they condemn. They throw the members of a punk rock band in jail for the crime of being provocative and vulgar and for having the audacity to protest President Putin's rule."

McCain did not make any effort to defend the policies of the United States, but accused Putin of seeking to shield the regime of President Bashar Assad of Syria. "How has he strengthened Russia's international stature?" McCain asked.

□



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., left, and Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., right, at the Capitol in Washington. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

and he said McCain had been invited to attend the annual policy conference in Valdai where Putin

that NATO will not cross the eastern border" of Germany, he said. "We discussed it and Gorbachev was giv-

Writing of Putin and his associates, McCain said, "They don't respect your dignity or accept your

Kerry:

UN must pass resolution on Syrian weapons

DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State John Kerry on Thursday called on the U.N. Security Council to move swiftly to approve a U.S.-Russia deal to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons, saying there is no time to argue with those who remain unconvinced that the Syrian regime carried out a chemical attack last month that killed hundreds.

Kerry didn't mention Russian President Vladimir Putin, but his remarks were a clear attempt to rebut Putin's statement that Russia has strong grounds to believe that Syrian rebels — not President Bashar Assad's regime — were responsible for the Aug. 21 attack.

Speaking at a conference, Putin said, "We have every reason to believe that it was a provocation, a

sly and ingenious one." He said those who perpetrated the attack relied on "primitive" technology, using old Soviet-made ammunition no longer in the

ascribe blame, the U.S., Britain, France and others believe that the report's findings offer conclusive evidence that the attack was conducted by the Syr-

that his regime was responsible for the attack.

The U.S., Britain and France pointed to evidence in the report — especially the type of rockets, the composition of the sarin agent and trajectory of the missiles — to declare that Assad's government was responsible. Moreover, they argue that there is no evidence that opposition forces possess sarin gas.

"So there you have it. Sarin was used. Sarin killed," Kerry said.

"The world can decide whether it was used by the regime, which has used chemical weapons before — the regime which had the rockets and the weapons — or whether the opposition secretly went unnoticed into territory they don't control to fire rockets they don't have, containing sarin that they don't possess to kill their own people." □



Secretary of State John Kerry makes a statement about Syria and chemical weapons ahead of next week's United Nations General Assembly at the State Department in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

Syrian army's inventory. While a recent report by U.N. inspectors did not

ian military. Assad, in an interview this week with Fox News Channel, denied



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Caroline Kennedy: Humbled to carry father's legacy

DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former first daughter Caroline Kennedy coasted through a Senate confirmation hearing to be the next U.S. ambassador to Japan,

would work to strengthen the crucial bond between the United States and its Asian ally on trade, the military and student exchanges. Japan is the U.S.'s fourth-largest trading partner and

said she understood her responsibility to uphold the ideals of her father — “a deep commitment to public service, a more just America and a more peaceful world.” Her father served in the

ward his legacy in a small way and represent the powerful bonds that unite our two democratic societies.” She noted the significance of her nomination 50 years since her father's presiden-

that she faced no obstacles to confirmation. Several senators said she would make a great ambassador.

Kennedy said that her father had wanted to be the first sitting president to make a state visit to Japan, especially since he was a World War II veteran. Kennedy said she visited Japan in 1978 with her uncle, then Sen. Ted Kennedy, and was moved by a visit to Hiroshima. Attending the hearing was Vicki Kennedy, the senator's widow. “This is indeed an important moment in the history of U.S.-Japan relations,” she said. “Japan is enjoying a period of political stability and economic renewal and is eager to increase trade and investment with the United States.”

President Barack Obama chose Kennedy, 55, an attorney and best-selling book editor, for the diplomatic job. If confirmed, she would be the first woman in a post from which many other prominent Americans have served to strengthen a vital Asian tie, including the late Sen. Mike Mansfield, former Sens. Walter Mondale and Howard Baker and former Rep. Tom Foley.

“You have a good sense of what national interests are,” said Sen. Bob Corker, the senior Republican on the panel.

Republican Sen. John Barrasso pressed Kennedy on whether she would work to end the Japanese tariff on soda ash, or sodium carbonate, a critical deposit in his state of Wyoming. □



Caroline Kennedy of New York, center, arrives for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on her nomination for Ambassador to Japan, on Capitol Hill, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013, in Washington, flanked by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., left, and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. Former first daughter Caroline Kennedy said she would be humbled to carry forward her father's legacy if confirmed by the Senate to be the next U.S. ambassador to Japan.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

promising to carry forward her father John F. Kennedy's legacy with humility. The soft-spoken Kennedy told the Foreign Relations Committee on Thursday that if confirmed, she

is home to the Navy's 7th Fleet and 50,000 American troops. With her husband, Edwin Schlossberg, son, Jack, and daughter Tatiana seated nearby, Kennedy

Pacific during World War II, battling Japanese forces. The daughter, seeking the diplomatic post for a fierce enemy-turned-friend, said that if confirmed, “I would be humbled to carry for-

cy, focusing on his tenure rather than on his assassination on Nov. 22, 1963. Kennedy faced gentle questioning from Republicans and Democrats on the committee, signaling

House To Vote On Stopgap Funding Bill, 'Obamacare'

Continued from front

Congress must pass the temporary spending bill before Oct. 1 to avoid a shutdown, and the Republican-friendly Chamber

take Congress to clear the funding measure and how close the government will come to a partial closure. Republican leaders have at times struggled to main-

Sen. Ted Cruz, a tea party favorite, vowed Thursday to do "everything and anything possible to defund Obamacare." But at the same news conference,

ceded that Senate Democrats likely have the votes to protect the health care law.

The White House vowed to veto the spending bill in the unlikely event that Senate Republicans muster enough votes to gut the health care law.

The White House said the Republican attempt to block "Obamacare" "advances a narrow ideological agenda that threatens our economy and the interests of the middle class" and would deny "millions of hard-working, middle-class families the security of affordable health coverage."

Far from giving up the effort to kill the health care law, Republican leaders are looking to shift the fight

over to even more important legislation required to prevent the government from defaulting on its financial obligations.

A debt-limit measure, required to allow the government to pay all of its bills on time, could be brought to the House floor as early as next week and would allow the Treasury to borrow freely for one year.

Republicans vow to load that bill with a wish list, including another assault on the health care bill and a provision to force the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline from Canada to Texas Gulf Coast refineries, a project that environmentalists oppose and that the Obama administration so far has refused to approve



Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., center, Rep. Tom Graves, R-Ga., right, and other conservative Republicans discuss their goal of obstructing the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare, as part of a strategy to pass legislation to fund the government, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013.

(AP Photo/J. Applewhite)

of Commerce pointedly called on lawmakers to pass urgent spending and borrowing legislation — unencumbered by debate over "Obamacare."

Despite clear signals that Republican leaders have little appetite for a shutdown fight, it was it was unclear how long it would

tain clout over their party's conservative tea party wing, which has been on a crusade all summer to defund the health care overhaul.

Even conservative Republicans, however, wavered this week in their willingness to push a shutdown over the health care fight.

Sen. Mike Lee — Cruz's partner in a summertime run of "Defund Obamacare" television commercials — declared that Obama's health care law "is not worth causing a shutdown over."

And Cruz himself had angered House conservatives a day earlier when he con-

Girl's paper crane comes to Pearl Harbor

AUDREY McAVOY
Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — A small paper crane folded by a 12-year-old girl who died of leukemia after the U.S. dropped an atom bomb on her hometown of Hiroshima will go on display in Pearl Harbor, where the 1941 Japanese attack launched the two nations into war.

Sadako Sasaki's family donated the origami crane to promote peace and overcome the tragedies of the past.

"We have both been wounded and have suffered painfully. We don't want the children of the future to go through the same experience," said Yuji Sasaki, the girl's neph-

ew, by telephone from Hiroshima. Starting Saturday, the crane will be part of an exhibit at the visitors' center at Pearl Harbor near the USS Arizona battleship that sank during the Dec. 7 bombing.

The tiny crane — it's about the size of a pinky fingernail — will occupy a small corner of one of two exhibit halls at the center, which is operated by the National Park Service.

Sadako Sasaki folded between 1,000 and 2,000 of the cranes while battling leukemia in 1955 (her family never counted exactly how many) after hearing an old Japanese story that those who fold a thousand cranes are granted one wish. The 6th grader's wish

was to get better, but she died less than three months after she started the project. Her story has since become well-known around the world, and origami cranes have become a symbol of peace.

The family has also given one crane to the Tribute WTC Visitor Center, next to Ground Zero in New York, and to the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution.

Yuji Sasaki said his family wanted one crane to go to Pearl Harbor because he feels there's still a gulf between some Americans and Japanese when it comes to how the war between their two countries began and how it ended. □

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Ex-Halliburton manager charged in Gulf spill probe

M. KUNZELMAN

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A former Halliburton manager was charged Thursday with destroying evidence following BP's 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, a case that coincides with a guilty plea to a related charge by the Houston-based oil-field services company.

Anthony Badalamenti, who had been the cementing technology director for Halliburton Energy Services Inc., was charged in federal court with instructing two other employees to delete data during a post-spill review of the cement job on BP's blown-out well.

Halliburton was BP PLC's cement contractor on the drilling rig that exploded in the Gulf in April 2010, killing 11 workers and triggering the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

Badalamenti, 61, is charged in a bill of information, which typically signals that a defendant is cooperating with prosecutors. His attorney, Tai H. Park, declined to comment. Badalamenti is scheduled to be arraigned on Sept. 30.

Also on Thursday, a federal judge accepted a plea agreement that calls for Halliburton to pay a



In an April 21, 2010 file photo, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig burns after a deadly explosion in the Gulf of Mexico. Anthony Badalamenti, who was the cementing technology director for Halliburton Energy Services Inc., was charged Thursday Sept 19, 2013, with destroying evidence following BP's 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

\$200,000 fine for a misdemeanor stemming from Badalamenti's alleged conduct.

U.S. District Judge Jane Triche Milazzo said she believes the plea agreement is reasonable and agreed with prosecutors and the company that it "adequately reflects the seriousness of the offense."

Attorney General Eric Holder said in a statement that Halliburton's guilty plea and the charge against Badalamenti "mark the latest steps forward in the Justice Department's efforts to achieve justice on behalf of all those affected by the Deepwater Horizon explosion, oil spill, and environmental disaster." □

Christians gather in Kan. to discuss homosexuality

MARIA SUDEKUM

Associated Press

PRAIRIE VILLAGE, Kansas (AP) — A man, whose on-line lecture about the Bible and same-sex relationships gained considerable attention, has gathered about 50 Christians from around the country to delve into his belief that the Scriptures do not condemn homosexuality as a sexual orientation. Matthew Vines grew up attending a conservative evangelical Presbyterian church in the city and relies heavily on intensive study of the Bible for his presentations. He said liberal and moderate Christian churches have adopted more gay friendly stances, but conservative churches remain steadfast in their opposition to homosexual-

ity. The 23-year-old Vines wants to bring change with his message that the Bible doesn't actually say same-sex orientation is a sin or condemn loving gay relationships. Out of 100 applicants, Vines selected 50 people with ties to conservative churches to participate in his three-day conference, which started Wednesday in Prairie Village and ends Saturday. "This conference is important because it really represents the next frontier of the LGBT movement, which is working to change the minds of conservative Christians about same-sex relationships," Vines said. "Because I'm a gay Christian who grew up in a conservative church and still have a lot of friends and family in

conservative churches, I'm trying to empower people to be able to stay in their churches that are not yet supportive."

Vines delivered an hour-long lecture on the topic at a Wichita church and posted it to YouTube in March 2012. Since then, the video has garnered more than 600,000 views and 15,000 responses. And it has been translated into several languages.

"A lot of conservative Christians are willing to listen, but they don't want to do it with someone who isn't educated about Scripture," said Vines, who has started a new organization, The Reformation Project, and written a book on the topic that will be published in March. □

ACLU:

Anti-terror program tracks innocents

PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Two men of Middle Eastern descent were reported buying pallets of water at a grocery store. A police sergeant reported concern about a doctor "who is very unfriendly." And photographers of all races and nationalities have been reported taking snapshots of post offices, bridges, dams and other structures.

The American Civil Liberties Union and several other groups released 1,800 "suspicious activity reports" Thursday, saying they show the inner-workings of a domestic surveillance program that is sweeping up innocent Americans and forever placing their names in a counterterrorism database.

Shortly after the 9/11 attacks, the federal government created a multibillion-dollar information-sharing program meant to put local, state and federal officials together to analyze intelligence at sites called fusion centers.

Instead, according to a Senate report the Government Accountability Office and now the ACLU, the program has duplicated the work of other agencies, has appeared rudderless and hasn't directly been responsible for any terror-related prosecutions. According to the GAO, the government maintains 77 fusion centers throughout the country and their operations are funded by federal and local sources. The ACLU obtained about 1,700 suspicious activity reports filed with the Sacramento office through a California Public Record Acts request. Another 100 were submitted as part of a court case in Los Angeles filed by the ACLU on behalf of photographers who say they are being harassed by Southern California law officials.

The documents do not appear to show valuable counterterrorism intelli-

gence.

A report from Bakersfield, phoned in to a police officer by a "close personal friend," describes two men who appear to be of Middle Eastern descent stocking up on water.

Another report shows a Lodi police sergeant "reporting on a suspicious individual in his neighborhood." The sergeant, whose name was redacted, said he "has been long concerned about a residence in his neighborhood occupied by a Middle Eastern male adult physician who is very unfriendly."

A third report states, "An off-duty supervising dispatcher with Sacramento P.D. noticed a female subject taking pictures of the outside of the post office in Folsom on Riley Street this morning. The female departed as a passenger in a silver Mazda."

The fusion center project was a target of a blistering Congressional report last year complaining that too many innocent Americans engaging in routine and harmless behavior have become ensnared in the program.

The ACLU and others are calling on the Obama administration to make overhauls so that only activities with legitimate links to terrorism investigations are reported. A Senate report last year concluded that the program has improperly collected information and produced little valuable intelligence on terrorism. The report suggested the program's intent ballooned far beyond anyone's ability to control.

What began as an attempt to put local, state and federal officials in the same room analyzing the same intelligence has instead cost huge amounts of money for data-mining software, flat screen televisions and, in Arizona, two fully equipped Chevrolet Tahoes that are used for commuting, investigators found. □

As budget fight looms, Obama sees defiance in his own party

PETER BAKER
JEREMY W. PETERS

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WASHINGTON - For four years, President Barack Obama counted on fellow Democrats to rally to his side in a series of epic battles with Republicans over the direction of the country. But now, deep in his fifth year in office, Obama finds himself frustrated by members of his own party weary of his leadership and increasingly willing to defy him.

In recent weeks, disgruntled Democrats, particularly liberals, have bolted from the White House on issues like National Security Agency surveillance policies, a planned military strike on Syria and the potential choice of Lawrence H. Summers to lead the Federal Reserve. In private, they often sound exasperated describing Obama's operation; in public, they are sometimes only a little more restrained.

They complain the White House has not consulted enough and failed to assert leadership. They say

Obama has been too passive and ceded momentum to Republicans. Their grievances are sometimes contradictory; some grouse that he takes on causes he cannot win, while others say he does not fight hard enough for principled positions. The failure to enact tightened gun control laws and the Republican hold on immigration legislation have left liberals little to celebrate this year.

"If you read the papers, you almost think the Republicans are in control," said Sen. Bernard Sanders of Vermont, an independent who caucuses with Democrats and vigorously opposed Summers until he withdrew from consideration. "They're constantly on the offensive. Democrats are on the defensive." The lack of strong leadership, he added, has created a vacuum. "I think you're going to see more independents saying, 'Mr. President, we look forward to working with you, but we're not simply going to accept your leadership and your ideas,'" he said.

"We're not going to follow you. You're going to have to work with us."

Obama's trouble with Democrats is not unusual for a second term and

with the emergence of Hillary Rodham Clinton as a front-runner.

By the end of his fifth year, President Bill Clinton had alienated liberals with the

shelved his Social Security overhaul, rebelled against the deteriorating Iraq War and helped sink his Supreme Court nomination of Harriet E. Miers.



President Barack Obama during a town hall meeting at Binghamton University in Binghamton, N.Y. Now deep in his fifth year in office, Obama has found himself stymied by members of his own party weary of his leadership and increasingly willing to defy him.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

could be temporary or episodic. With re-election behind him, members of his party see no need to stick with him to secure another four years. They are also looking ahead to the next election earlier than usual

North American Free Trade Agreement, a welfare overhaul and a balanced budget deal with Republicans. President George W. Bush in his fifth and sixth years was in worse shape with Republicans, who

"It makes it a lot harder when it's your own party," said Peter H. Wehner, a top Bush aide at the time. "You can't fire back with the same intensity and vehemence as when it's the other party. □"

Census: No signs of economic rebound for many in America

HOPE YEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even as the U.S. economy shows signs of improvement and poverty levels off, census data released Thursday suggest the gains are uneven.

Poverty is on the rise in single-mother families. More people are falling into the lowest-income group. And after earlier signs of increased mobility, fewer people are moving as homeownership declined for a fifth straight year.

"We're in a selective recovery," said William H. Frey, a Brookings Institution demographer who analyzed the numbers.

The number of Americans in poverty remained largely unchanged at a record 46.5 million.

The annual U.S. survey of socioeconomic indicators covers all of last year, representing the third year of a

post-recession rebound.

By race, a growing proportion of poor children are Hispanic, a record 37 percent of the total. Whites make up 30 percent, blacks 26 percent.

The numbers reflect widening economic inequality, an issue President Barack Obama has pledged would be a top priority of his administration to address. Upward mobility in the U.S. has been hurt by a tight job market and the disappearance of mid-skill jobs due to globalization and automation.

The new census data shows that lower-income households are a steadily increasing share of the population, while middle- to higher-income groups shrank or were flat. In 2012, households earning less than \$24,999 made up 24.4 percent of total households, up from 21.7 percent four years earlier. □

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Race tightens ahead of German Parliament vote

ALISON SMALE

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BERLIN - Germany's race for Parliament tightened Thursday, three days before elections, with fresh

in Alexanderplatz, in the heart of former East Berlin, accusing the Merkel-led coalition of being "the most quarrelsome, useless and backward-looking"

poll, which was conducted by Insa for the newspaper Bild-Zeitung. The Free Democrats could squeak by into Parliament if that support holds at above the 5

sampling error of 3 percentage points, Insa said. Both major parties, insisting that Germany's future is firmly in Europe, have ruled out any coalition with the Alternative for Germany. If the anti-euro party does get into Parliament, it increases the odds that Merkel will remain chancellor, but only as the head of a "grand coalition" with the Social Democrats. That would match the coalition that governed in her first term, when Steinbrück was finance minister and the pair together guided Germany through the 2008 financial crisis. It would also potentially make Steinbrück a key player in the next phase of Germany's leadership, whether his party wins or not. For his part, Steinbrück, 66, has said he will not be part of another grand coalition. But it is increasingly clear that he would like to be part of negotiating whatever program the two big parties can thrash out. The uncertainty of the outcome means that the Eu-

ropean Union, which has been holding its breath as the German vote nears, is likely to wait a few more months before learning where Berlin would like to guide the troubled Continent. Steinbrück, a bright but sometimes blustering politician, was regarded as a strong alternative to Merkel, 59, when he declared his candidacy a year ago. Almost immediately, however, he started to stumble, first over disclosures that he had received \$1.7 million for speeches and writings, then over whether politicians were paid enough, and next over a suggestion that he would never buy cheap wine. His party, which is still divided over a legacy of labor and welfare reforms that it initiated when last in power under Merkel's predecessor, Gerhard Schröder, was slow to get its campaign rolling. Even as late as July, Steinbrück seemed a somewhat reluctant slogger on the trail. □



Social Democratic top candidate Peer Steinbrueck speaks during a pre-election rally in Berlin, Germany, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013. Steinbrueck is challenging German Chancellor Angela Merkel in the general elections on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013.

(AP Photo/Michael Sohn)

polls underlining the difficulty that even the popular chancellor, Angela Merkel, faces in building a winning coalition. Merkel's Social Democratic challenger, Peer Steinbrück, a classic center-leftist who has deep experience in Germany's state and federal governments, urged his party to make the most of what it says is collapsing support for the chancellor and her Christian Democrats. "In three days, you can be rid of them!" Steinbrück told a crowd gathered

government in modern German history. The chancellor herself, Steinbrück charged, has given no direction in the past four years. Instead, "she prefers to drive around in circles," like a caged tiger at the Berlin Zoo, he added. A poll published Thursday showed that Merkel's center-right party had the support of 38 percent of German voters. Its current coalition partners, the business-minded Free Democrats, had the support of 6 percent, according to the

percent threshold. The center-left Social Democrats are backed by 28 percent of voters, and the Greens by 8 percent, the poll found. The far-left Linke, which Steinbrück has said cannot be partners in government, polled at 9 percent, with the Alternative for Germany, the only party that explicitly rejects the euro, notching 5 percent, which would make it a surprise entry into Parliament. The poll surveyed 2,248 voters by telephone from Sunday to Wednesday and had a margin of

Al-Qaida captures town in Syria

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Al-Qaida militants seized a town near the Turkish border Thursday after expelling Western-backed rebels from the area, demonstrating the growing power of jihadis as they seek to expand their influence across opposition-held Syrian territory. The infighting — now engulfing many parts of northern Syria — threatened to further split opposition forces outgunned by President Bashar Assad's troops and strengthen his hand as he engages with world powers on relinquishing his chemical weapons. Opposition forces who had been hoping that U.S.-led military strikes would help tip the balance in the civil war are growing increasingly desperate after the Obama administration shelved those plans in favor of a diplomatic solution. Many rebels blame jihadis

in their ranks for the West's reluctance to intervene militarily in Syria or give them the advanced weapons they need. There is also growing concern that the dominant role the extremists are playing is discrediting the rebellion. Yet the jihadis, including members of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, an al-Qaida offshoot, have been some of the most effective forces on the battlefield, fighting alongside the Western-backed Free Syrian Army to capture military facilities, strategic installations and key neighborhoods in cities such as Aleppo and Homs. But the two sides have turned their guns on each other. Turf wars and retaliatory killings have evolved into ferocious battles in what has effectively become a war within a war in northern and eastern Syria, leaving hundreds dead on both sides. □



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Russia's Putin says he may seek 4th presidential term

LYNN BERRY

Associated Press

VALDAI, Russia (AP) — President Vladimir Putin said Thursday he may run for a fourth presidential term in 2018, confirming the expectations of most Russians and frustrating those now working to restore free elections in Russia.

If Putin runs and wins, it would keep him in power for about a quarter century and make him the nation's longest-serving leader since Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

Putin has largely rolled back on Russia's post-Soviet democratic achievements, sidelining the opposition, reducing the Parliament to a rubber stamp and establishing tight control over the media. He insisted that Russia, only two decades away from the fall of the Soviet Union, is determined to become a democracy, but would find its own path despite criti-

cism from the West.

"The kind of government that Russia should have should be determined by Russian citizens and not by our esteemed colleagues from abroad," he said during an international conference, an annual event

attended by Russia experts from the U.S. and Europe.

Putin, who served two consecutive four-year terms starting in 2000, became prime minister in 2008 to observe a constitutional limit of two consecutive terms. He remained in charge as

prime minister, with his loyal associate, Dmitry Medvedev, serving as a placeholder.

Medvedev initiated a law that extended the presidential term to six years, and Putin won a third term in 2012 despite major pub-

lic protests in Moscow against his rule.

Putin addressed his future plans when challenged by former French Prime Minister Francois Fillon during the conference in Valdai, a wooded region in north-west Russia known for its pristine lakes. Fillon said he would not reveal whether he planned to run for president unless Putin answered the same question.

"And if I answer, will you?" Putin responded.

"We'll see," Fillon said.

"I don't exclude that," Putin said. To which Fillon added: "Me either."

Putin also took direct questions from Russian opposition figures about the protests and the rise of political activism they ushered in. He held out the possibility of amnesty for more than two dozen people arrested after clashes broke out with police during a protest on the eve of his inauguration. They face charges of mass unrest that could send them to prison for years.

Putin said he "would not exclude" an amnesty, but said he would only act after the courts had ruled.

During Wednesday's session of the four-day conference, the chief of Putin's staff and his deputy engaged in an unusual discussion with opposition politicians on whether they would be allowed not only to run in elections, but to win. □



Russian President Vladimir Putin, center, gestures as he leaves the final plenary meeting of the Valdai International Discussion Club in the Novgorod Region, on the banks of Lake Valdai, Russia, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013.

(AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko, Pool)

Egyptian militants kill senior police officer

DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK

© 2013 New York Times

CAIRO - Militant gunmen killed a senior police officer and injured 10 others Thursday when security forces raided a bastion of Islamist support on the outskirts of the capital, redoubling fears of a violent backlash against the recent military takeover.

Security officials said the officer, Gen. Nabil Farrag, the assistant security director for the province of Giza, was killed when a large convoy of military tanks and police armored vehicles rolled into the town of Kerdasa, across the Nile from Cairo, in an attempt to flush out Islamist militants hiding out there.

An unidentified gunman appears to have assassinated the general soon after the security forces arrived in the town. In video footage of the shooting, the general is conspicuous in a white uniform and black protective vest, chatting at ease in an open lot with an Egyptian television news reporter. Then comes a burst of automatic gunfire, the general falls to the ground bleeding from a wound to his side, and the reporter and others - none injured - begin calling for help. The police had abandoned the town since Aug. 14, the day security forces had killed several hundred Islamist protesters at sit-ins in Cairo. In retaliation,

militants had stormed Kerdasa's police station. After battering it with rocket-propelled grenades, the militants executed about a dozen officers and mutilated their bodies, according to security officials and video footage of the remains. The killing of Farrag on Thursday in Kerdasa - a 20-minute drive from Cairo - was the second episode

in two weeks to raise the prospect that the violence could spread to the capital, where the government forces are strongest.

The police raid on Kerdasa, conducted in tandem with the army, was the second operation this week aimed at apprehending fugitive Islamist leaders in a town dominated by opponents of the new government. □

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Pope warns church must find new balance or fail

NICOLE WINFIELD

RACHEL ZOLL

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis has warned that the Catholic Church's moral structure might "fall like a house of cards" if it doesn't balance its divisive rules about abortion, gays and contraception with the greater need to make it a merciful, more welcoming place for all. Six months into his papacy, Francis set out his vision for the church and his priorities as pope in a lengthy and remarkably blunt interview with *La Civiltà Cattolica*, the Italian Jesuit magazine. It was published simultaneously Thursday in Jesuit journals in 16 countries, including *America* magazine in the U.S.

In the 12,000-word article, Francis expands on his ground-breaking comments over the summer about gays and acknowledges some of his own faults. He sheds light on his favorite composers, artists, authors and films (Mozart, Caravaggio, Dostoevsky and Fellini's "La Strada")

and says he prays even while at the dentist's office. But his vision of what the church should be stands out, primarily because it contrasts so sharply with many of the priorities of his immediate predecessors, John Paul II and Benedict XVI.

They were both intellectuals for whom doctrine was paramount, an orientation that guided the selection of a generation of bishops and cardinals around the globe.

Francis said the dogmatic and the moral teachings of the church were not all equivalent.

"The church's pastoral ministry cannot be obsessed with the transmission of a disjointed multitude of doctrines to be imposed insistently," Francis said. "We have to find a new balance; otherwise even the moral edifice of the church is likely to fall like a house of cards, losing the freshness and fragrance of the Gospel."

Rather, he said, the Catholic Church must be like a "field hospital after battle,"

healing the wounds of its faithful and going out to find those who have been hurt, excluded or have fallen away.

"It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he

first proclamation: Jesus Christ has saved you. And the ministers of the church must be ministers of mercy above all."

The admonition is likely to have sharp reverbera-

ops were also behind Benedict's crackdown on American nuns, who were accused of letting doctrine take a backseat to their social justice work caring for the poor — precisely the



Pope Francis waves to faithful in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

(AP Photo/Riccardo De Luca)

has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars!" Francis said. "You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else."

"The church sometimes has locked itself up in small things, in small-minded rules," he lamented. "The most important thing is the

tions in the United States, where some bishops have already publicly voiced dismay that Francis hasn't hammered home church teaching on abortion, contraception and homosexuality — areas of the culture wars where U.S. bishops often put themselves on the front lines. U.S. bish-

priority that Francis is endorsing.

Just last week, Bishop Thomas Tobin of Providence, Rhode Island, said in an interview with his diocesan newspaper that he was "a little bit disappointed" that Francis hadn't addressed abortion since being elected. □

Prosecutor: UK women face at least 6 years

CARLA SALAZAR

Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — The two U.K. women arrested in Peru last month trying to board a flight to Spain with 24 pounds of cocaine in their luggage face a minimum of six years and eight months in prison with no eligibility for parole if they plead guilty, the prosecutor handling their case said Thursday.

Prosecutor Juan Bautista Mendoza told The Associated Press in an interview that a further sentence reduction is possible if the women cooperate as witnesses against co-conspirators. Michaela McCollum, 20, and Melissa Reid, 19, have a Tuesday court hearing where they are expected to be interrogated by a judge.

Each faces drug-traffick-

ing charges and could be charged with up to 15 years in prison.

An attorney for McCollum said after the women's Aug. 6 arrest at Lima's international airport that they were coerced with threats of violence by a gang of up to 15 armed men, some of whom trailed them to Peru from Spain.

"I was simply repeating what she had told the police during the questioning," attorney Peter Madden told the AP by phone from Britain on Thursday. He said he could not yet say whether McCollum, who has both Irish and British citizenship, would plead guilty or go to trial.

Mendoza said that if both women plead guilty they could be sentenced to prison in less than a month's time. He said otherwise their

trial could last six months. The prosecutor said a new law enacted two weeks after the women's arrest eliminated sentence reductions for good behavior for people convicted of drug trafficking. Previously, parole was possible after 32 months for drug couriers who pleaded guilty.

The women were arrested attempting to board a flight to Madrid with the cocaine hidden in packages of mayonnaise, said Mendoza. He said he did not believe that they were coerced into carrying the drugs or in any way threatened.

According to Peru's national prisons institute, 90 percent of the 1,648 foreigners in the country's prisons are either sentenced or awaiting trial for drug trafficking. □



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Thousands welcome giant rubber duck to Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Thousands of people crowded the harbor of a Taiwanese city on Thursday to welcome a giant floating yellow rubber duck.

The 18-meter (59-foot) duck is a huge version of the bathtub toys loved by children.

It was created by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman, who has taken various versions around the world to spread a message of happiness.

The sun was shining in Kaohsiung city to the delight of fans who had feared that the duck's arrival might be delayed by an approach-

ing typhoon. News reports said city officials hope their iconic guest will attract about 3 million visitors and generate tens of millions of dollars in revenue.

It is to remain in the city until Oct. 20, when it will begin visiting other locations in Taiwan.

"It keeps on smiling to you, you know. It says, 'don't you worry, laugh, be happy!'" Hofman said Thursday. "This big rubber duck in your harbor, in Kaohsiung in this case, changes Kaohsiung. And it changes also your fantasy and your brain. And it's a piece of art." □



A giant yellow duck sits at the Glory Pier in the port of Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013. Despite the heat, thousands flocked to the port of Kaohsiung, the first leg of the Taiwan tour, to see Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman's famous 18 meter (59 foot) yellow duck, a gigantic version of the iconic bathtub toy used by children around the world.

(AP Photo/Wally Santana)

PetroChina supplier's books seized in graft probe

KELVIN CHAN
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Chinese authorities investigating corruption at the country's state-owned oil giant have seized records and frozen bank accounts at a PetroChina Co. supplier, the company said Thursday. Wison Engineering Services Co. also said it couldn't contact its chairman, Hua Bangsong, who is one of the country's richest self-made entrepreneurs. The Shanghai-based company, which said earlier this month that Hua was helping with the investigation, said he was "still assisting relevant authorities." The company said Zhao Hongbin, the manager of the finance department at a subsidiary, is also assisting. "Mr. Hua is not contactable and he is not able to discharge his daily duties," Wison said.

Forbes estimates Hua, who

founded Wison in 1997, is worth \$1.2 billion.

Analysts say the investigation appears to be part of efforts by China's new leadership under President Xi Jinping to tighten control over state-owned energy companies.

Four executives at PetroChina or parent China National Petroleum Corp. have already been detained and former CNPC chairman Jiang Jiemin has been fired as head of the Cabinet commission overseeing state-run companies. In a statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange, Wison said regulatory authorities have inquired "about certain projects of the group, taken books and records and frozen certain bank accounts."

Wison said it hasn't been told about the nature of the investigation or details about how Hua and Zhao

are involved. It added that some of the affected bank accounts were later unfrozen. Wison said in a separate statement that its chief financial officer, Chen Wenfang, has resigned. The statement didn't make ref-

erence to the investigation and it's not clear whether his resignation is related. Wison has been trying to downplay its relationship with PetroChina. The company said earlier this month that only 5.6 percent of its

revenue in the January-June period, or 111 million yuan (\$18 million), came from the oil giant.

It also has four outstanding PetroChina contracts worth a total of 204.2 million yuan (\$33.3 million). □

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Companies face global risks in land claim disputes

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — A new study suggests a huge risk for global businesses: Local communities are disputing almost a third of the land involved in commercial land deals in 12 countries in Africa, Asia and South America. The study for the U.S.-based Rights and Resources Initiative highlights a topic being studied by the World Bank, development organizations and other participants from 40 countries at a conference that began Thursday in Interlaken, Switzerland.

It used mapping technology to analyze over 153 million hectares — about the size of the Gulf of Mexico — licensed for everything from agriculture to forestry to mining in Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Liberia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mozambique, Peru and the Philippines.

The study found at least 31 percent of the land — an area equivalent to the Appalachian region that stretches from southern New York to northern Mississippi — overlapped with indigenous land claims. It said that put at risk at least \$5 billion worth of agriculture production, mostly in Argentina.

According to the study, 84 percent of Argentina's soybean concessions overlap with community-claimed areas, potentially tying up

\$4.6 billion in production. In Cameroon, 83 percent of all timber concessions overlap with community forests, putting at risk nearly a half-percent of the nation's entire annual economic production, the study found. And in the

Andy White, coordinator of RRI, a coalition that includes over 150 organizations, said conference organizers will urge the world to adopt a goal of doubling the amount of land and forests managed or clearly owned by local

ing major development projects is legitimate.

But he added: "I wouldn't say we're part of the problem. We're a big part of the solution."

Chris Anderson, director for communities and social performance for British-



An Indian wearing a traditional headdress wears a sign that reads in Portuguese "End the genocide, long live the Indians, rivers and trees," at a protest in Brasilia, Brazil, by various Indian communities in defense of the Guarani-Kaiowa tribe who are involved in a land dispute.

(AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)

Philippines, one mining project on disputed land is projected to add 1 percent to the country's annual economic output.

The study focused on countries with the best data, but its authors pointed out that those with the least data present more of a risk because of the unknowns.

communities and indigenous peoples by the end of 2018.

Jorge Muñoz, one of five World Bank officials at the conference, said there's growing momentum to figure out how to solve these problems, and acknowledged that some criticism of the bank's role in financ-

Australian mining company Rio Tinto Group, said the conference marked the first time officials from across so many fields converged to figure out "how do we recognize people's rights in lands, but at the same time grow their economies so they improve their livelihoods?" □

EU to change budget calculation to ease austerity

JUERGEN BAETZ

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union finance experts have reached a preliminary agreement on changing the way the bloc determines some deficit figures, which will lessen the pressure for austerity measures in some crisis-hit economies, an EU official said Thursday.

The change to the calculation of the structural deficit would have "very significant" positive consequences for Spain because of its labor market structure, and somewhat less so for

Ireland, Greece and Portugal, the official added.

Spain is struggling to overcome record unemployment of about 26 percent. The change could allow the government a slightly looser fiscal stance, thereby fostering growth.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said the working-level agreement on the "superior methodology" still needs approval by a meeting of top finance ministry officials from the bloc's 28 member states next week.

While national government officials were involved in this week's decision by a group of experts, an agreement cannot be taken for granted. Officials from more hawkish European creditor nations might resent the measure as an attempt to lessen the pressure on heavily indebted nations for what they deem to be necessary budget cuts and structural reforms. The nature of the change is very technical — changing the methodology of measuring the output gap between potential and structural growth — but it could

have significant repercussions.

The result is used to calculate the structural deficit figure — that is the deficit adjusted for the cyclical strength or weakness of the economy — upon which the European Commission bases its policy recommendations.

The change also appeared aimed at countering criticism that EU rules have aggravated the bloc's downturn by requiring governments to narrow their budget deficits even in the midst of a recession and record unemployment. □

UN:

Development in cutting poverty but gaps remain

PETER SPIELMANN

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Developing countries have won greater access to technology, broader markets for their exports and gained some debt relief over the last year, a new U.N. report said Thursday. But the report said the world must increase aid and push for a multilateral trade agreement to spur on more progress.

The report was an update on Millennium Development Goal benchmarks set for the year 2015, and is part of a United Nations push to try to reach them in the next months and to set new priorities for the next phase of development. World leaders agreed in 2000 on anti-poverty goals including cutting extreme poverty by half, halting the AIDS pandemic and increasing the number of people with access to clean water and sanitation.

It said the lives of millions had improved as many countries reduced poverty, expanded access to clean water, and brought girls into the primary school system, and that provided hope that more of the targets could be met.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon introduced the report Thursday, saying "We can do better. The best way to prepare for the post-2015 era is to demonstrate that when the international community commits to a global partnership for development, it means it." The U.N. report said that official foreign aid from governments fell for a second year in 2012, by 4 percent, to \$125.9 billion, mainly due to the European fiscal crisis. Bilateral aid to the 49 poorest countries fell 12.8 percent to about \$26 billion, it said.

This set a worrisome trend in which the richer countries may not be living up to the U.N. standard of setting aside 0.7 percent of the gross national product for assistance aid. □



318 Associates Celebrate Housekeeping Week At Marriott Aruba!



PALM BEACH - From September 8 – 13, 2013, the Aruba Marriott's Resort, Ocean and Surf Club house-

keeping departments celebrated the annual Housekeeping Appreciation Week.

As the heart of a hotel, Marriott International yearly honors and celebrates Housekeeping Week worldwide. All 318 Housekeeping associates were invited for a grand kick off breakfast in Marriott's ballroom served by their executive team. Wearing their special made T-shirts "Keep calm and shine on", the Housekeeping departments enjoyed themselves with a Bachata dance-off and daring their managers to do better. Throughout the week, all three Housekeeping departments had their individual schedules of cele-

brations at the hotels and off property. The Resort team organized fun training day, family days at De Palm Island, bingo and bowling. The Ocean Club associates participated with bingo games, bowling, private breakfast, sing along contest and a night out at Ranch Monte Blanco. Associates of the Surf Club celebrated their special week with Spel zonder Grenzen, Movie night, bingo and a zumba dance contest. The Aruba Marriott thanks the Housekeeping departments for their dedication and great work. □

The Blue Lobster Restaurant Celebrating Their Second Anniversary



ORANJESTAD – Looks like yesterday that Golazo Cafe opened in what is one of the best restaurants in Aruba. This coming 15th of October, The Blue Lobster will be celebrating their second anniversary. With blood, sweat and lot's of work, Mr. Castaño with his son-in-law Sandro, together with an excellent crew of associates, made it to market an excellent image and name which now sounds in every corner of Aruba, The Blue Lobster, with lots of humility and

with respect for the competition, knew how to enter the heart of our community and had an awesome success. Workers like Haidy, Arianne, Matias, Joshua, Joel, Zuly, Alba, Artur, Sonny, together with other associates like Mario, Adriana, Alba Quintero and our provider, made everything possible that The Blue Lobster, climbed so high to the top in appreciation of the community. Thank you very much for your effort. If we go back in time what

happened in these two years, everything god comes to our memories. Lots of persons and entrepreneurs of Aruba whom chose The Blue Lobster as their favorite spot, preferred to have their very delicious lunch in an ambience very elegant and relaxing. In the month of October, The Blue Lobster will start selling souvenir for its clientele, to gain funds for Mari Stella, Cas di Hubentud and Casa Cuna. These are the plans which have to be accomplished,



Beauty On The Beach

Sandra Santelmo

Living in Barcelona España She was born in Venezuela and her parents are born in Italy She works as a dentist in Spain. And this is her third visit in Aruba she is on vacation staying at a friends house

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but the souvenirs will be in Aruba soon. Also, The Blue Lobster was honored by the visit of numerous international journalists, whom were brought by the Aruba Tourism Authority, or bay companies like Avianca. Also they received visit of the President of a Country Club in Colombia, owners of Hoteles Viajo, which is a Colombian hotel chain. In just 16 months of time, The Blue Lobster received two international awards (trip advisor) and a local award of such importance (The Best of Aruba), and also The Blue Lobster was

included in the list of "The 10 Best of Aruba". A big thanks goes to everyone who believed and supports us, Mr. Castaño said. That's why everyone is invited to come to The Blue Lobster and enjoy the food of high quality and professional service that The Blue Lobster has to offer. As a token of appreciation for the community of Aruba, the whole month of September, our prices which are in dollars will be in florin, for both the afternoon and the evening seating. Come and celebrate with us this month. "Masha Danki, Aruba." □

A Big Bugaloe Welcome Back to Bill and Tammi Hale!



PALM BEACH - Bugaloe Guests of the week are Bill and Tammi Hale from Halifax, Pennsylvania. They are no strangers to Aruba, as they have been coming back every year for the past 11 years. And why not? They love the warm climate, and of-course Bugaloe! The mostly like to spend their vacation at the pool of their villa, or enjoying an ice cold Balashi Chill and Miller Lite at Bugaloe. Bugaloe has become their favorite bar because of the bartenders, wait staff, kitchen staff, food, fun and booze! When coming in, they like to enjoy a Grouper and Taco Beef Wrap, to lay down a base for a night of fun! One of their funniest memories at Bugaloe was how even the Aruba birds love Bugaloe, when they saw yellow belly birds fly in to take a sip from the liquor bottles on the shelves. The Bugaloe Crew would like to thank Bill and Tammi for being such loyal Bugaloe guests, and hope to welcome them more often! ☐

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Stenson opens with 64 to take lead at East Lake

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Henrik Stenson looked like he couldn't miss Thursday in the Tour Championship. Tiger Woods didn't make a thing. Stenson ran off five birdies over a six-hole stretch on the front nine at East Lake. His last birdie, a 5-iron from 223 yards to 4 feet on the par-3 18th hole, gave him a 6-under 64 and a one-shot lead over Masters champion Adam Scott. Scott made six birdies in seven holes for a 29 on the back nine. There were birdies galore on a warm, relatively calm afternoon at East Lake — except for Woods. Woods missed a short birdie putt on his opening hole that set the tone for the day. He was the only player in the 30-man field to go without a birdie. On the par 5s, Woods three-putted for par on No. 9 and missed a putt just inside 10 feet on No. 15.



Henrik Stenson, of Sweden, hits from the fairway on the fourth hole during the first round of play in the PGA Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013.

Continued on page 20

Associated Press



Floyd Mayweather Jr. celebrates after defeating Canelo Alvarez during a 152-pound title fight, Saturday, Sept. 14, 2013, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s dominating win over Canelo Alvarez was the richest fight ever, a box-office smash

Mayweather-Alvarez bout is richest fight ever

at the arena and on television.

Showtime said on Thursday that at least 2.2 million homes bought the pay-per-view for the bout, second only to the 2.44 million homes in Mayweather's 2007 fight against Oscar De La Hoya.

With the highest pay-per-view boxing price — at an average of more than \$70 — the fight will generate nearly \$150 million in revenue in TV sales alone.

Nevada boxing regulators say the gate for the bout was just more than \$20 million, also a record. A total of 16,146 seats were sold for the event at an average price of almost \$1,240 per

ticket.

Promoter Richard Schaefer said total revenues would approach \$200 million upon final count, surpassing the \$165 million generated by the Mayweather-De La Hoya fight.

"You sort of reach for the stars but you don't always catch them," Schaefer said. "I was reaching for the stars but the way this fight caught fire surprised everyone."

Mayweather earned a guaranteed \$41.5 million for the fight, while Alvarez was guaranteed \$5 million. Both will make more based on a percentage of the pay-per-view revenue.

"It will make big paychecks

even bigger," Schaefer said. "I don't know how big but certainly bigger. Much bigger."

Mayweather was as impressive as the ticket sales, outclassing Alvarez and winning nearly every round on his way to a majority decision. He remained unbeaten in 45 fights, while Alvarez lost for the first time in 44 professional fights.

The fight was a hot ticket from the time it was announced, even with ring-side seats selling for \$2,000. Those proved a bargain in the days leading up to the event when some tickets in the resale market were being offered for as much as \$29,000.

Nevada Athletic Commission executive director Keith Kizer said the total gate of just over \$20 million eclipsed the \$18.4 million earned from 17,000 tickets for the Mayweather-De La Hoya fight. Both bouts were held at the MGM Grand arena. Only 50 complimentary tickets were distributed, and promoters said before the fight that tickets were in such short supply that celebrities who normally watch for free were offering to pay.

Showtime said the 2.2 million PPV figure was a conservative number, based on preliminary reports from cable and satellite TV distributors. □

'Battle of the Sexes' resonates 40 years later

RACHEL COHEN

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The name itself struck an antagonistic tone: "Battle of the Sexes."

From Bobby Riggs' chauvinistic crowing to the entrances worthy of the Roman Colosseum, the imagery was conflict, war.

Billie Jean King prefers to remember how that tennis match "brought everybody together."

"Everybody had parties," she recalled during the U.S. Open this month. "You had the fraternities and sororities having parties together."

You had suburb parties where men and women were together — betting against each other, but it brought them together."

"These people are together," King added, "whether they like it or not."

Friday is the 40th anniversary of a 29-year-old woman's straight-set victory over a 55-year-old man in front of more than 30,000 fans. Often the participants in culture-tilting moments look back later and say they never realized at the time how big it would be. Not King on Sept. 20, 1973. She knew exactly what she was getting herself into at Houston's Astrodome.

"I knew how important it was," she said.

"I did know. I felt it. I knew it the moment I said yes to Bobby."

King dreaded the repercussions for women's causes if she lost. She remembers saying then: "It's going to touch the emotions of our preconceived ideas about gender and the culture we live in."

When Serena Williams won this year's U.S. Open, she earned a total of \$3.6 million in prize money — same as men's champ Rafael Nadal — and became the first woman to surpass \$9 million in a season and \$50 million in a career.

"The Battle of the Sexes" was the glitzy, gaudy symbol of gender equality, but 1973 marked some very concrete steps — with King right in the middle. This year is also the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Women's Tennis Association and equal prize money at the U.S. Open.

Wimbledon didn't adopt equal prize money until 2007.

A day after her win, Williams reflected on the fight from the 1970s through the 2000s.

"It's amazing," she said. "It means so much because people like Billie Jean King and Venus who stood up to Wimbledon — 'We want equal prize money' — to all the pioneers who helped me get this paycheck. What's so beautiful about it is in 10 years, women are going to be making so much more money, it's going to be even better opportunities for females out there. It's not going to stop here."



In this photo taken Sept. 5, 2013, Billie Jean King reflects about her match against Bobby Riggs in 1973 as she stands in front of a display during the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York. Friday, Sept. 20, 2013, is the 40th anniversary of King's straight-set victory over Riggs in front of more than 30,000 fans.

Associated Press

portunities for females out there. It's not going to stop here."

In 1982, Martina Navratilova became the first woman to earn over \$1 million in a season; two years later, she topped \$2 million.

When Steffi Graf retired in 1999, she had won nearly \$22 million in her career. The WTA was founded a week before Wimbledon in 1973. King would win the women's singles and doubles and mixed doubles

titles there.

"I actually played a little tennis that year," she reminded.

When the tournament started, King said, "I remember feeling happy because I knew we had the WTA. I felt lighter, happier."

By the end, she was exhausted even walking to the net to shake hands, the years of struggle weighing her down.

The battle was won. The battle goes on.

Last month, ESPN aired allegations that Riggs threw the match. King called the story "ridiculous."

Reminiscing about the events of four decades ago, she can't just talk about tennis, can't just talk about the past.

Someone quoted King a stat about the number of women in government in Afghanistan compared with the United States; she wanted to look it up to see if it was true. □

Wimbledon champ Andy Murray to have surgery on back problems

LONDON (AP) — Wimbledon champion Andy Murray will have minor surgery on a long-standing back problem and is set to miss the rest of the season.

"The aim is to be fully fit for the new season," said a statement released by Murray's management company on Thursday.

The third-ranked Murray is likely to miss the season-ending ATP World Tour Finals in London on Nov. 4-11, as well as the Masters

events in Shanghai and Paris in October. There are 13 tournaments left on this year's schedule.

Murray has had problems with his back before this year, but the complaint flared up at the Rome Masters in May, forcing him to pull out of the French Open that month.

He returned to win grass-court titles at the Queen's Club and Wimbledon, where he beat Novak Djokovic in the final to be-

come Britain's first male singles champion at the All England Club in 77 years.

"But after recently playing on hard courts and clay, Andy once again sought medical advice about solving the issue once and for all," the statement said.

The Scot's last competitive outing of 2013 looks set to be in Britain's Davis Cup match against Croatia last week, when he won two singles to help his team return to the world group. □



In this May 31, 2012 file photo, Andy Murray of Britain grimaces as a doctor tends to his back injury in his second round match against Jarkko Nieminen of Finland at the French Open tennis tournament in Roland Garros stadium in Paris.

Associated Press

Oracle wins race to stay alive in America's Cup

BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Oracle Team USA remains alive in an America's Cup that continues to plod along because of a convergence of wind, tide and safety concerns.

Jimmy Spithill and defending champion Oracle Team USA sped around San Francisco Bay to win Race 12 by 31 seconds and prevent Emirates Team New Zealand from sailing off with the America's Cup on Thursday.

With the Kiwis at match point, Oracle Team USA responded with a dominating performance to pull to 8-2. Oracle Team USA still needs seven victories to keep the trophy.

Race 13 was delayed because the wind kept popping above the limit of 20 knots. The breeze died down and the pre-start sequence began, but then the wind spiked with about a minute to go before the start and the race was called off.

Organizers will try to get in Race 13 — and a Race 14, if necessary — on Friday.

Races have been postponed four times in three days, including both races on Tuesday.

On Saturday, Race 9 was abandoned just as the boats turned onto the windward third leg with New Zealand in the lead.

A number of factors are converging to prolong the regatta.

The original wind limit was 33 knots. After British double Olympic medalist Andrew "Bart" Simpson was killed in the capsize of Artemis Racing's catamaran on May 9, the limit was reduced to 23 knots as one of 37 safety recommendations.

The wind limit is offset by the tide. An ebb tide was flowing out of San Francisco Bay at 3 knots before the scheduled start of Race 13, reducing the wind limit to 20 knots.

Some have wondered why races don't start earlier, but the decision to set the start times at 1:15 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. was made months ago, in part over TV concerns. That was well before the wind limit was lowered. The wind that whistles in through the Golden Gate



Oracle Team USA sails past fans on Pier 23 after defeating Emirates Team New Zealand to win the 12th race of the America's Cup sailing event, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Bridge usually continues to build throughout the afternoon, which is why one race gets sailed but then a second race of the day has to be scrubbed.

The Kiwis, skippered by Dean Barker, reached

match point on Wednesday by winning Race 11. Race 12 was scrubbed that afternoon.

Oracle Team USA was sailing so well in Race 12 that its catamaran foiled upwind at 31 knots at one

point, riding only on hydrofoils with both hulls out of the water as the boats zig-zagged toward the Golden Gate Bridge.

After struggling earlier this regatta, the American-backed crew continues to improve while sailing the only upwind leg on the 5-leg course. Oracle Team USA has improved its technique and has made adjustments to its wing sail.

Oracle Team USA won the start after Barker got too close to the line too early. The Kiwis had to bear away a bit, and the 34-year-old Spithill hooked behind them and into controlling position.

Oracle led by 5 seconds rounding the reaching first mark and by 11 seconds at the leeward gate.

The American boat kept its lead during a tacking duel up the third leg and led by 10 seconds turning back downwind.

It had built its lead to 29 seconds by the time it rounded the fourth mark and raced across the wind to the finish line off America's Cup Park on Pier 27-29. □

Continued from Page 18

It was only the seventh time in his PGA Tour career — and third time at East Lake — that he went an entire round without a birdie. Woods shot a 73, matching his highest opening round of the year on the PGA Tour. He walked past reporters without comment.

The No. 2-seeded Stenson, the hottest player in golf over the last three months, and Scott (No. 3) only have to win the Tour Championship to capture the FedEx Cup and the \$10 million prize.

Steve Stricker rallied late with three straight birdies for a 66, tied with Billy Horschel.

Stenson began his big run with four straight tournaments in the top 3 — including two majors and a World Golf Championship — and then won the Deutsche Bank Championship. But he was coming off a me-



Tiger Woods looks over his putt on the second green during the first round of play in the PGA Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013.

Associated Press

diocre performance in the BMW Championship last week that left him so angry he smashed and broke his driver on the final hole, and then smashed up a locker at Conway Farms.

Plus, he was coping with a sore wrist from last weekend that hurt so much he only played nine holes this week in practice.

It was the latest example of the Swede's temper, and he handled it with an apology to Conway Farms and self-deprecating humor.

"I really knew I had to be in a good frame of mind coming out there if I wanted to play good golf this week," Stenson said. "As some of you noticed, I wasn't that on Monday when I finished

up in Chicago. So it was a good turnaround mentally. I stayed very level-headed — kept the head on, both myself and drivers and played a great round of golf."

Asked how he could go from the joy of winning a FedEx Cup playoff event to losing his temper in one tournament, Stenson replied, "I can tell you don't have much experience with Swedes, do you?"

"No, I'll tell you I've always been a bit of a hot-head, and I just haven't been able to get any rest," he said. "I was looking forward to that Monday back home and lying on the couch — the kids in school and me just doing nothing, and I ended up playing golf again on that Monday. I was just tired, and I pushed myself over the edge there."

"That's not the best place to be and not the best frame of mind to play good golf," he said. "I'm

really delighted with the change I made to today." In his Tour Championship debut, his head was in the right place, his wrist felt fine and Stenson was on top of his game like never before. He had one stretch of three birdies all within 4 feet, capped off by a 6-iron from 207 yards over water to a right pin that settled a foot away. And he did it all in the presence of Woods, the No. 1 player in the world.

"Normally, he's doing it to everyone else," Stenson said.

Seventeen players broke par in the opening round. Woods wasn't alone in his struggles. Phil Mickelson switched to the claw grip midway through his round and nothing seemed to help. He had a 71. Nick Watney, coming off a runner-up finish in Chicago just to get into the Tour Championship, had a 72. PGA champion Jason Dufner was in last place at 74. □

Padres rally past reeling Pirates 3-2

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Logan Forsythe and Rene Rivera delivered consecutive RBI singles in the ninth inning off Pittsburgh closer Mark Melancon as the San Diego Padres rallied for a 3-2 victory in the National League on Wednesday.

NL Capsules

Forsythe's single to right scored pinch-runner Andrew Cashner to tie it and Rivera's hit brought home Chris Denorfia as the Padres sent the Pirates to their third straight loss.

Pittsburgh fell two games behind St. Louis, which beat Colorado 4-3, for first place in the NL Central division. But the Pirates still inched closer to clinching one of the wild-card playoff spots for their first postseason berth in 21 years when Atlanta beat Washington. Dale Thayer (3-5) picked up the win in relief. Huston Street pitched a perfect ninth for his 33rd save.

Melancon (2-2), who inherited the closer's role when All-Star Jason Grilli went out with a forearm injury in July, blew his third save of the season.

DIAMONDBACKS 9, DODGERS 4

PHOENIX (AP) — Paul Goldschmidt homered and the Arizona Diamondbacks blew the game open late to prevent Los Angeles from clinching the NL West division title.

Goldschmidt's opposite-field two-run shot off Stephen Fife (4-4) in the first inning moved him into the NL lead with 34 home runs. Yasiel Puig hit a solo home run for the Dodgers, who have lost five of six and get one more chance to clinch in Arizona in the series finale Thursday.

The Dodgers' Adrian Gonzalez was ejected after Michael Young was called out at the plate in a close

play in the sixth inning.

Brandon McCarthy (5-9) went six-plus innings to get the victory. Arizona broke open a close game with five runs in the eighth.

BRAVES 5, NATIONALS 2

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justin Upton and Dan Uggla each homered in a three-run sixth inning as the Braves rallied past the Nationals to close in on the NL East division title.

Brian McCann and Jordan Schafer also drove in runs as the Braves ended a three-game losing streak. Atlanta has not won the division since 2005, the last of 11 straight titles.

Kameron Loe (1-2) got one out for the win. Craig Kimbrel, Atlanta's seventh pitcher, rebounded from his loss Tuesday to record his 48th save.

Denard Span extended his hitting streak to 29 straight, the longest in Major League Baseball this season.

CARDINALS 4, ROCKIES 3

DENVER (AP) — Adam Wainwright pitched effectively into the eighth after a shaky start and helped himself at the plate with three hits as the Cardinals beat the Rockies to expand their lead in the NL Central division race.

Wainwright (17-9) gave up two runs in the first and then found his groove to earn his 17th win, second-most in the NL this season.

He went 3 for 3 with a double and two RBIs to help the Cardinals stretch their lead to two games over Pittsburgh after the Pirates lost 3-2 loss to San Diego.

Tyler Chatwood (7-5) allowed four runs in six innings before being lifted for a pinch hitter. Chatwood is rounding back into form after missing nearly a month with an inflamed right elbow.

Ross Ohlendorf (4-1) allowed three runs over six



San Diego Padres' Andrew Cashner (34) slides past Pittsburgh Pirates catcher John Buck to score from second on a single by Logan Forsythe in the ninth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013, in Pittsburgh. The Padres won 3-2.

Associated Press

innings.

MARLINS 4, PHILLIES 3, 10 INNINGS

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Ed Lucas homered in the 10th inning to lift the Marlins to a victory over the Phillies.

The Phillies loaded the bases with one out in the bottom of the inning but could not score after Roger Bernadina struck out and Freddy Galvis grounded out to end it.

The homer was the fourth of the season for Lucas. Miami's Giancarlo Stanton tied the game 3-all in the sixth inning with a two-run, homer to center field.

Brad Hand (1-1) got the victory for pitching a scoreless ninth.

Cesar Jimenez (1-1) was the loser as Miami ended its seven-game losing streak to Philadelphia.

METS 5, GIANTS 4

NEW YORK (AP) — Josh Satin hit a two-run single to cap a four-run rally in the ninth inning that sent the Mets past San Francisco.

Shut down by Matt Cain for almost eight innings, the makeshift Mets lineup put together a surprising comeback. Pinch-hitter Zach Lutz had an RBI double and Juan Centeno, making his major league debut, knocked in a run with a single off closer Sergio Romo (4-8).

Satin had three RBIs, including a sacrifice fly against Cain in the eighth. □

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ON TWO SCREENS

PATRICK WILSON | ROSE BYRNE

INSIDIOUS 2
CHAPTER 2

MON - THURS 8:30
FRI - SAT 8:30 | 10:50
SUN & HOL. 8:30

MON - THURS 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:35
FRI 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:35 | 11:55
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:35 | 11:55
SUN & HOL. 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:10 | 9:35

CATE BLANCHETT | ALEC BALDWIN

Blue Jasmine

MON - THURS 9:10
FRI - SAT 9:10 | 11:30
SUN & HOL. 9:10

VIN DIESEL | JORDI MOLLÀ

RIDDICK

WITH DUTCH SUBTITLES
MON - THURS 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20
FRI 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20 | 11:55
SAT 2:00 | 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20 | 11:55
SUN & HOL. 2:00 | 4:10 | 6:45 | 9:20

LEONARD NIMOY | ABIGAIL BRESLIN

ZAMBEZIA

MON - FRI 4:55
SAT, SUN & HOL. 2:50 | 4:55

ETHAN HAWKE | SELENA GOMEZ

GETAWAY

MON - THURS 7:00 | 9:15
FRI - SAT 7:00 | 9:15 | 11:55
SUN & HOL. 7:00 | 9:15

DANE COOK | STACY KEACH

PLANES

MON - FRI 4:50 | 7:00
SAT, SUN & HOL. 2:40 | 4:50 | 7:00

JENNIFER ANISTON | JASON SUDEIKIS

WE'RE THE MILLERS

MON - THURS 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30
FRI 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30 | 11:55
SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:30 | 11:55
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Rays beat Rangers to close in on AL wild card

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida

(AP) — Desmond Jennings had an RBI single in the 12th inning and Tampa Bay took over the top spot in the American League wild-card playoff race by beating Texas 4-3 on Wednesday. AL Capsules

Texas has a half-game lead over Cleveland, which lost at Kansas City, for the second wild card.

Jose Lobaton opened the 12th with a single off Joseph Ortiz (2-2) and pinch-runner Sam Fuld went to second on Yunel Escobar's bunt. Fuld scored on Jennings' hit to right center.

Brandon Gomes (2-1) struck out Ian Kinsler with runners on second and third with two outs in the top of the 12th for the Rays, who have won two of the first three games of the four-game series.

Texas took a 3-2 lead in the 11th when Elvis Andrus scored from first base on Adrian Beltre's two-out single.

The Rays tied it on David DeJesus' RBI single in the bottom of the inning as Matt Joyce drew a two-out walk from Rangers closer Joe Nathan and pinch-runner Freddy Guzman stole second and scored on DeJesus' single. It was Nathan's third blown save in 42 chances this season. Sean Rodriguez, who had just two hits in his previous 16 at-bats against Rangers' starter Derek Holland, tied it at 2-all in the sixth with a two-run homer off the left-hander.

ORIOLES 5, RED SOX 3, 12 innings

BOSTON (AP) — Chris Davis hit a tiebreaking two-run single with two outs in the 12th inning to lift Baltimore. Matt Wieters had two RBI doubles for Baltimore,



Tampa Bay Rays' Desmond Jennings lines a 12th-inning RBI-single off Texas Rangers relief pitcher Joe Ortiz that scored Rays' Sam Fuld during a baseball game on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla. The Rays won the game 4-3.

Associated Press

which closed to within one game of Texas for the AL's second wild-card spot in the playoffs. The Rangers lost 4-3 in 12 innings to the wild card-leading Rays. T.J. McFarland (2-1) worked the 11th for the win and Jim Johnson got the final three outs for his AL-leading 47th save. The Orioles played their 114th errorless game, surpassing the 2008 Houston Astros for Major League Baseball's most since 1900. J.J. Hardy and Brian Roberts had consecutive one-out singles and both advanced on a wild pitch by Franklin Morales (2-2). After pinch-hitter Steve Pearce was intentionally walked, Manny Machado fouled out before Davis' grounded one up the middle into center field.

Boston had runners on first

and second with one out in the 11th, but Stephen Drew grounded into a double play.

David Ortiz hit his 28th home run — a two-run shot — and Mike Napoli added a solo homer for the Red Sox.

ROYALS 7, INDIANS 2

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — Bruce Chen worked five innings and Salvador Perez doubled home two runs for Kansas City.

Cleveland is a half-game behind in the AL wild-card playoff race while the Royals are 2½ games back.

Chen was pulled in the sixth after giving up a single to Michael Bourn and walking Nick Swisher to lead off the inning.

Francisley Bueno replaced Chen and recorded two outs with three pitches.

Royals relievers Tim Collins, Will Smith and Greg Holland preserved the lead, allowing just one hit.

The Royals broke the game open with three runs off four Indians pitchers in the eighth. Alcides Escobar had a two-run single, while Jarrod Dyson walked with the bases loaded.

Rookie Danny Salazar (1-3), who had allowed just one run in 13 2-3 innings in his first three September starts, took the loss, giving up four runs and six hits in six innings.

ANGELS 5, ATHLETICS 4, 11 innings

OAKLAND, California (AP)

— Josh Hamilton hit a tying two-run homer in the ninth inning, then put the Angels ahead with a sacrifice fly in the 11th.

Hamilton connected against Grant Balfour, who blew his third save of the season. Jesse Chavez (2-4) was the loser.

Mike Trout added a two-run home run for the Angels, who won for the fourth time in five games.

Coco Crisp and Yoenis Cespedes each hit two-run home runs for the A's, who lost for the third time in 12 games. They entered Wednesday with a six-game lead over Texas in the AL West division.

Juan Gutierrez (1-4) pitched the 10th for the win. Ernesto Frieri worked the 11th for his 35th save in 39 chances.

TWINS 4, WHITE SOX 3

CHICAGO (AP) — Scott Diamond pitched into the seventh inning for his first win since June as Minnesota avoided a three-game sweep.

Diamond (6-11) allowed three runs and five hits in 6 1-3 innings to earn his first MLB win since June 20 against the White Sox.

Since then, he was 0-5 with a 6.20 ERA in eight starts.

Minnesota had scored four runs during the first two games of the series, but matched that in the first two innings, scoring once in the first and three times in the second against John Danks (4-14).

Oswaldo Arcia, Chris Colabello, Eric Fryer and Brian Dozier drove in runs that helped the Twins win for the second time in eight games. Glen Perkins pitched a scoreless ninth for his 36th save in 40 tries, ending the White Sox's five-game winning streak against the Twins.

YANKEES 4, BLUE JAYS 3

TORONTO (AP) — Vernon Wells had a go-ahead two-run double in the eighth inning and Mariano Rivera earned a four-out save as New York rallied from three runs down to end a four-game skid.

Robinson Cano drove in the Yankees' first run in this three-game series with a one-out single in the eighth. Alfonso Soriano followed with an RBI double, helping New York avoid falling farther behind in the AL wild-card playoff race. New York entered 3½ games behind Tampa Bay and Texas for the second wild card.

David Huff (3-1) pitched 3 2-3 innings of relief to earn the win.

Colby Rasmus homered for the fourth straight game and Ryan Goins hit his first career homer but the Blue Jays couldn't hold on to a 3-0 lead, losing for the sixth time in eight games.

MARINERS 8, TIGERS 0

DETROIT (AP) — Hisashi Iwakuma extended his scoreless innings streak on the road to 25 and Seattle's Justin Smoak homered off Justin Verlander. □



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Nintendo's Yamauchi dies aged 85



In this Friday, June 12, 1992 file photo, Hiroshi Yamauchi, then-president of Japan's Nintendo Co., answers questions during a news conference after he won the final approval to buy the Seattle Mariners at the company's head office in Kyoto, western Japan.

Associated Press

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Hiroshi Yamauchi, who ran Nintendo for more than 50 years and led the Japanese company's transition from traditional playing-card maker to video game giant, has died. He was 85. Kyoto-based Nintendo said Yamauchi, who owned the Seattle Mariners major league baseball club before selling it to Nintendo's U.S. unit in 2004, died Thursday of pneumonia at a hospital in central Japan.

Yamauchi, who had little interest in baseball, was approached to buy the Mariners, who may have had to move to Florida without a new backer. The acquisition made the Seattle club the first in the major leagues to have foreign ownership.

Yamauchi was company president from 1949 to 2002, and engineered Nintendo's global growth, including developing the early Family Computer consoles and Game Boy portables.

Nintendo, which makes Super Mario and Pokemon games as well as the Wii U home console, was founded in 1889. It made traditional playing cards before venturing into video games.

Reputed as a visionary and among the richest men in Japan, Yamauchi made key moves such as employing the talents of Shigeru Miyamoto, a global star of game design and the brainchild of Nintendo hits such as Super Mario and Donkey Kong. □

Industry sounds alarm on piracy

ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The music and movie industries are sounding the alarm again on on-line piracy, saying illegal downloads are on the rise and search engines like Google aren't doing enough to stop them.

Entertainment executives say they have no intention of trying to revive failed U.S. legislation that would have imposed unprecedented regulations on Internet companies. That proposal last year prompted a fierce backlash from tech companies and activists who said it would damage the Internet as a free and open enterprise.

But the industry's top lobbyists returned to Capitol Hill this week to try to renew interest in online piracy, which has largely fallen off the public's radar. They are distributing to sympathetic lawmakers their own research on what they say are the growing perils of piracy — some of which is contested by Internet activists — and telling Congress that Google and other search engines aren't doing enough to redirect consumers away from known pirating sites.

The suggestion was that private talks between entertainment executives and Google on anti-piracy efforts had failed to produce a solution, prompting two lobbying giants — the Motion Picture Association of America and the Recording Industry Association of America — to make their case instead in news conferences and hearing rooms on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, while Google declined to comment.

"We invite Google and the other major search engines to sit down with us to formulate a plan that goes beyond promises of action and actually serves its intended



In this April 24, 2012, file photo, Motion Picture of Association of America of Chief Executive Chris Dodd speaks during his CinemaCon State of the Industry address in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

purpose of deterring piracy and giving the legitimate marketplace an environment to thrive," RIAA Chairman Cary Sherman told a House panel on Wednesday.

Earlier that day, MPAA Chairman Christopher Dodd, a former U.S. senator, joined several House lawmakers in telling reporters that "as the Internet's gatekeepers, search engines share a responsibility to play a constructive role in not directing audiences to illegitimate content."

While Google declined to discuss the allegations, a spokeswoman pointed reporters to its own recent piracy assessment. In that report, Google claims consumers are more likely to find pirated material from friends or social networks than by using its search engines. "Google search is not how music, movie and TV fans intent on pirating media find pirate sites," Google wrote in a report titled "How Google Fights Piracy." The precise amount and damage done by pirated content has long been a source of debate among Internet activists, who don't want any government regulation, and entertainment

executives, who say rampant piracy hurts the U.S. economy. Independent research on the issue has been scarce. A 2010 study by the Government Accountability Office concluded it was "difficult, if not impossible" to determine exactly how much U.S. companies were losing to counterfeit goods and piracy in general.

Since last year's hotly contested anti-piracy legislation, which awakened a grass-roots lobbying movement of Internet activists, lawmakers have had little appetite to revisit the issue. And industry has said it has abandoned legislative reforms in lieu of voluntary measures, such as ad networks advising members not to advertise on sites known to offer illegal content. Payment processors like Visa, MasterCard and PayPal also have agreed not to do business with sites that continue to pirate copyrighted material.

And, last August, Google announced it would tweak its search engine to lower the visibility of any site that acquires a high number of copyright removal notices. □

US stock market pauses after record-setting day

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street paused Thursday, as investors tried to figure out what to do next following the Federal Reserve's decision to keep its economic stimulus in place.

Stocks and government bond prices pulled back from their record-setting levels on Wednesday. Gold, historically a haven for nervous investors, had its biggest one-day jump since the onset of the financial crisis in September 2008. Investors faced new questions Thursday. Was the Fed's vote to delay dialing back its stimulus a signal that the U.S. economy is weaker than they previously thought? Does the Fed have greater concerns about future economic growth than Wall Street?

The Fed was supposed to scale back its \$85 billion in monthly bond purchases by \$10 billion to \$15 billion. Instead, Chairman Ben Bernanke did nothing.

"He basically shelved (any cut backs) for the short and medium term," said Frank Davis, director of sales and trading at LEK Securities. Davis said the Fed would likely not vote to start pulling back until its mid-December policy meeting.

The decision was a surprise because Bernanke and other voting members of the Fed had telegraphed throughout the summer that the central bank was considering pulling back.

The bond buying is designed to keep interest rates low with the goal of stimulating the economy by encouraging borrowing and lending. Bernanke might have missed his window of opportunity, said Wayne Wilbanks, chief investment officer at Wilbanks, Smith, Thomas in Norfolk, Virginia, who manages about \$2.4 billion in assets.

Now the market is back to its mentality in May, when investors were trying to parse every possible data point from the Fed to figure out what it is planning to do. "The Fed buttered the market up, it was a done deal," he said. "It was a huge policy mistake." As part of its announcement, the Fed also cut its economic growth forecasts for this year and 2014.

Bernanke warned that the upcoming debt ceiling and budget battles between the White House and Congress "may involve additional risks to financial markets and to the broader economy."

Wednesday's market rally

highlighted a deeper concern: the belief among investors that this economy can grow only with the Fed's help, said Julius Ridgeway, an investment adviser at Medley Brown,

industrial average slipped 40 points, or 0.3 percent, to 15,636.55. The Nasdaq composite index rose six points, or 0.2 percent, to 3,789.38.

Both the Dow and the

an ounce. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.75 percent from 2.69 percent late Wednesday. Despite Thursday's minor pull back, September has been great for the mar-



Specialist Thomas Facchine, center, calls out prices on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Wall Street paused Thursday, as investors tried to figure out what to do next following the Federal Reserve's decision to keep its economic stimulus in place.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

a financial-advisory firm in Jackson, Mississippi.

"The market wants the economy to be healthy and on life support, and it can't have both over the long term," he said.

On Thursday, the Standard & Poor's 500 index lost three points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,722.34. The Dow Jones

S&P 500 hit record highs Wednesday. Investors also made big moves into gold, anticipating that the Fed's decision to pull back, also called "tapering" on Wall Street, may weaken the dollar or cause inflation.

Gold continued to climb Thursday, surging \$61.70, or 4.7 percent, to \$1,369.30

ket. Stocks are on pace to have their best month in nearly two years.

However, Wilbanks and other investors believe the market cannot go much higher from here, particularly with earnings season coming in a few weeks and the looming political fights in Washington. □

US unemployment benefit applications rise to 309K

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of people seeking U.S. unemployment benefits rose 15,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 309,000. But the data was distorted for the second straight week by reporting delays.

The Labor Department says the less volatile four-week average fell 7,000 to 314,750, the lowest in nearly six years.

Applications plummeted two weeks ago when California and Nevada were unable to report all their data because of computer upgrades in both states. A government spokesman says those states reported



Job seeker Kelsey Devoe, of Miramar, Fla., fills out a contact form at a job fair in Miami Lakes, Fla. The Labor Department reported on the number of Americans who applied for unemployment benefits for the third week of September on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

all the applications that came in last week. But backlogged data from

two weeks ago may elevate the figures in the coming weeks, he said.

The broader trend in applications has been favorable, signaling fewer layoffs. The four-week average fell 6 percent in the two months before the computer upgrades distorted the figures.

While layoffs are down, companies have yet to rapidly increase hiring. Employers have added an average of just 155,000 jobs a month since April. That's down from an average of 205,000 for the first four months of the year.

That's a big reason the Federal Reserve on Wednesday held off slowing its \$85-billion-a-month in bond buying. Those purchases are intended to keep mortgage and other

longer-term interest rates low and encourage more borrowing, spending and growth.

The economy grew at a modest 2.5 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter. That's too slow to generate hiring strong enough to rapidly lower the unemployment rate, which is a still-high 7.3 percent four years after the Great Recession ended.

And economists forecast that growth has slowed to an annual rate of 2 percent or less in the current July-September quarter. Consumers have grown more cautious about spending, while higher interest rates have threatened to slow the housing recovery. □

Lufthansa splits order between Boeing, Airbus

AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— German airline Lufthansa is ordering 34 new jets from Boeing and 25 from European rival Airbus as it updates its long-haul fleet to make it more fuel efficient and lower costs.

Lufthansa said the orders were worth 14 billion euros (\$19 billion) at list prices.

The 777-9X jets from Chicago-headquartered Boeing Co. and the Airbus A350-900 models will begin being delivered in 2016. They will replace older aircraft such as Boeing 747-400s and Airbus A340-300s. The 777-9X family is to launch later this year and enter service around the end of the decade, Boeing says.

Lufthansa said it was taking options to buy more planes if its business needs demanded it. Airbus, based in Toulouse, France, said Lufthansa had options to buy 30 more of the planes. The company said the new planes will make its fleet more fuel-efficient and quieter as well as improve passenger comfort with wider cabins. CEO Christoph Franz said that the order "enabled a quantum leap in efficiency."

Lufthansa AG is facing tough competition from Middle Eastern airlines on long-haul routes between Europe and Asia, as well as competition from low-cost airlines on shorter routes. Aircraft noise has been a political and legal issue at the airline's Frankfurt hub, where some residents have complained about the impact of new runways.

The airline says the new planes use an average 2.9 liters of jet fuel to fly a passenger 100 kilometers — lower than the current fuel mileage figure for the company's long haul fleet of 3.58 liters per 100 kilometers per passenger.

The company recorded a net loss of 204 million euros (\$270.01 million) in the first six months of the year as restructuring costs, fuel prices and slower business in Asia and the Middle East sapped earnings. □

Wells Fargo to lay off 1,800 mortgage employees

NEW YORK (AP) — Wells Fargo plans to lay off an additional 1,800 employees from its mortgage department, after cutting about 2,300 jobs from the same unit in August.

Spokesman Alfredo Padillo said Thursday that the San Francisco-based bank is cutting jobs in the mortgage department be-

cause fewer people than it expected are refinancing their mortgages.

The jobs are in locations across the country.

The affected employees were given 60 days' notice, Wells Fargo said.

The bank said that is looking for other positions for those people within the company.

Tim Sloan, Wells Fargo's chief financial officer, had warned earlier this month that the bank may have to cut jobs if mortgage demand weakens. Sloan blamed a spike in interest rates over the summer for weaker demand.

His comments came during a presentation to analysts in New York.

Wells Fargo & Co. is largest originator of residential mortgages in the U.S. and ranks as the nation's second biggest bank by deposits. It had over 275,000 employees overall as of June 30.

Shares of Wells Fargo slipped 36 cents to \$42.95 in afternoon trading Thursday. □

JPMorgan pays \$920M, admits fault in trading loss

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — JPMorgan Chase & Co. will pay

\$920 million and has admitted that it failed to oversee trading that led to a \$6 billion loss and renewed worries about serious risk-taking by major banks.

U.S. and U.K. regulators said Thursday that the largest U.S. bank's weak oversight allowed traders in its London office to assign inflated values to transactions and cover up huge losses as they ballooned. Two of the traders are facing criminal charges of falsifying records to hide the losses.

The combined amount JPMorgan is paying three U.S. regulators and the U.K. Financial Conduct Authority adds up to one of the largest fines ever levied against a financial institution.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission fined the bank \$200 million and required a rare admission of wrongdoing. The Federal Reserve Board imposed a \$200 million penalty, while the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency set a \$300 million fine. The British regulator fined the company \$220 million.

The U.S. Justice Department is still investigating the bank for possible criminal violations.

The SEC said that the breakdown in supervision stretched beyond the trading operations to the bank's top executives.

"JPMorgan's senior management broke a cardinal rule of corporate governance: inform your board of directors of matters that

call into question the truth of what the company is disclosing to investors," said George Canellos, co-director of the SEC's enforcement division.

New York-based JPMorgan called the settlements

"We have accepted responsibility and acknowledged our mistakes from the start, and we have learned from them and worked to fix them," JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon said in a statement. "We

damaged the bank's reputation. JPMorgan was one of the few financial institutions to come through the 2008 financial crisis without suffering major losses.

The fallout even ensnared Dimon, who initially dismissed reports of the losses as a "tempest in a teapot." He later acknowledged the magnitude of the losses, admitted to Congress that the bank failed in its oversight and took a multi-million-dollar pay cut.

The settlement comes just days after the five-year anniversary of the crisis. The huge loss at JPMorgan raised concern about continued risk-taking by Wall Street banks and questions of whether the financial industry had learned the lessons of the meltdown.

Three employees in the London office were fired — two senior managers and a trader. The episode also led to the resignation of Ina Drew, the former chief investment officer overseeing JPMorgan's trading strategy.

Federal prosecutors in New York filed criminal charges last month against Javier Martin-Artajo and Julien Grout. Martin-Artajo supervised the bank's trading strategy in London, and Grout, his subordinate, was in charge of recording the value of the investments each day. They were charged with conspiracy to falsify books and records, commit wire fraud and falsify filings to the SEC. They also were charged separately in an SEC civil complaint.

Both traders, through their lawyers, have denied any wrongdoing. □



People walk out of the JPMorgan Chase & Co. headquarters on Park Avenue, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013, in New York. Regulators in the U.S. and U.K. said Thursday the bank's weak oversight of its London operation allowed traders to cover up huge losses.

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

"a major step" in its efforts to put its legal problems behind it. The bank said it cooperated fully with all of the agencies' investigations and continues to cooperate with the Justice Department in its criminal prosecution of the two former traders.

will continue to strive towards being considered the best bank — across all measures — not only by our shareholders and customers, but also by our regulators."

The trading loss that surfaced in April 2012 shook the financial world and

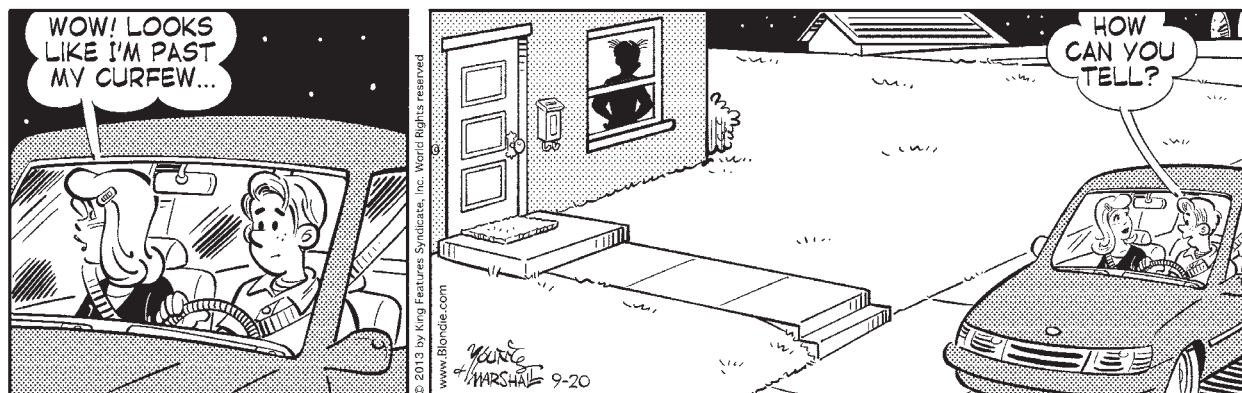
Mutts



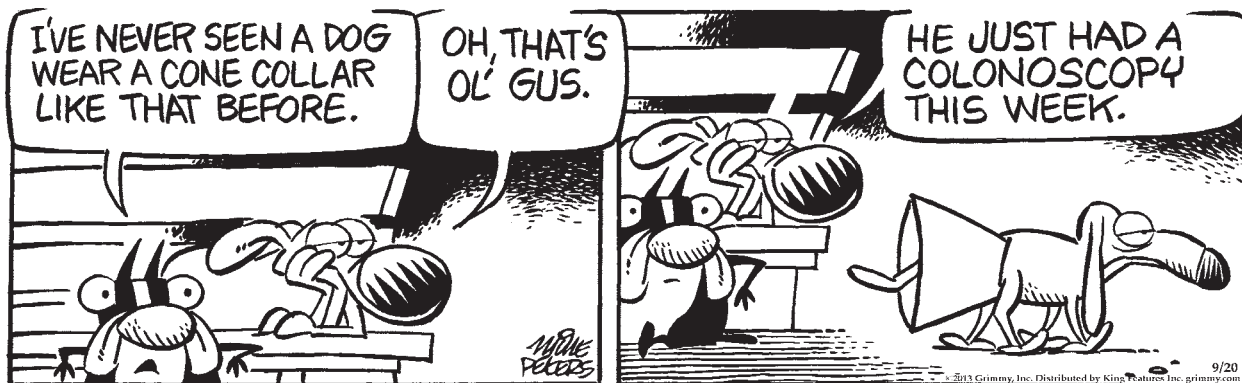
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 3 | | | 7 | 4 | | |
| | | | | 2 | | | | |
| 9 | | 4 | | | | 8 | | 6 |
| 3 | | | | 4 | | | | |
| | 6 | | | 7 | | | 5 | |
| | | | | 1 | | | | 9 |
| 4 | | 5 | | | | 7 | | 1 |
| | | | | 5 | | | | |
| | | 7 | 9 | | | 3 | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

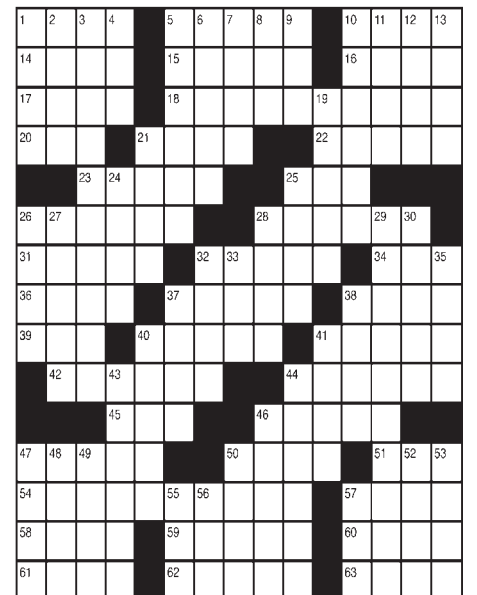
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 5 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 7 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| 8 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| 1 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 4 |
| 6 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 1 |
| 4 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 6 |

ACROSS

- Hitchhiker's hope
- Take illegally
- Stay out of sight
- Region
- "__" makes "waste"
- In the sack
- Lion's cry
- Delicious-looking
- Come to a close
- Get __; take revenge
- Social class distinction
- Nile or Jordan
- Man's title
- Complains childishly
- Less civilized
- Helpful clues
- Poet Dickinson
- Deface
- Consequently
- Speedy
- Cause of distress
- Golfer's peg
- Napped leather
- Disk-shaped percussion instruments
- One of several in a dresser
- Spigot
- Made a lap
- __-frutti
- Deep divide
- Ascend
- Cribbage piece
- Gatherings after a wedding
- Actress Ballard
- Upper limbs
- Saying
- Knickknack
- Buzzing insects
- James Earl __
- State of clutter

DOWN

- Unusual
- Small electrical appliance



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/20/13

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

| | | |
|---------|---------|--------|
| KOBE | DEALS | SEEK |
| EVEN | ISLET | TYPE |
| NEAR | SPINE | REIN |
| TRUANCY | TABASCO | |
| | GAS | DELAY |
| GOOEY | SON | REACH |
| HAMS | AIR | REDSEA |
| ARE | OPPOSED | HAL |
| NEGATE | TEX | LEST |
| ADAPT | SHE | LOSES |
| | PEPPY | FEZ |
| SHEARER | PREEMPT | |
| HERR | AERIE | NOAH |
| URGE | CAINE | GONE |
| TOOL | EDNAS | EDGE |

9/20/13

- Look-alike
- Place for a hearing aid
- Uses a razor
- __ off; diminish gradually
- Sports network
- Feasted
- Allow
- Danger
- Wading bird
- Fender bender memento
- On __; nervous
- In a very unfriendly way
- 12/24 & 12/31
- Bump __; meet unexpectedly
- Gritty residue
- Sharpen
- Gave a job to
- Hubby's mate
- Set free
- Stove
- Vase-shaped jug
- Prefix for night or section
- Take a break
- Hard cooking fat
- Boxing match
- Marsh
- Fence opening
- Evaluate
- Needless ados
- Slight coloring
- Ornery person
- In this place
- Pinnacle
- Reddish horse
- Peepers
- Jewels
- 55 __ Mahal
- Wedding words
- Actress Novak

Predicting violent behavior is tough

DENISE GRADY

© 2013 New York Times

In hindsight, it may seem clear that Aaron Alexis, who went on a shooting rampage at the Washing-

ton Navy Yard on Monday, posed a threat long before the attack, but most mental health experts say that, barring the rare few who declare their intentions, it

barring him with vibrations. Three violent incidents in the past decade led to run-ins with the police. For its part, the Department of Veterans Affairs said it

ed, and was asked by VA doctors if he was struggling with anxiety or depression, or had thoughts about harming himself or others, which he denied."

According to its records, the agency said, Alexis "never sought an appointment from a mental health specialist, and had previously either canceled or failed to show up for primary care appointments and claims evaluations examinations he had scheduled at VA Medical Centers." Even if he had kept the appointments, it is hard to say if he would have given doctors enough reasons to intervene. Research shows that psychiatrists and psychologists do not do well at predicting violence. Swanson described a study in which two groups of psychiatrists were asked to read the records of patients treated for mental health problems. One group was told that the patients had committed murders or suicides, and the doctors were asked to comb over the records and look for warning signs or red flags that might have tipped off a therapist to the imminent threat.



Dr. Jeffrey Swanson, professor in psychiatry and behavioral science at Duke University, speaks to a colleague, in an undated handout photo. Swanson says that it is difficult to pick out people who are likely to commit violent acts, but certain symptoms are often warning signs.

(Shawn Rocco/Duke Medicine via The New York Times)

can be extremely difficult to pick out people who are likely to commit murder. "Couldn't someone have predicted this and intervened and saved all these lives?" said Jeffrey W. Swanson, a professor in psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Duke University. "I get asked this a lot when there's a horrible mass shooting and indications that the perpetrator had a mental health problem. I can tell you the common characteristics of people who engage in mass shootings: It's a picture of troubled, isolated young men that matches the picture of tens of thousands of other young men who will never do this." Just last month, Alexis told the police in Rhode Island that he was hearing voices and was being followed by people who were bom-

did not have anywhere near enough clues to ring alarm bells. Alexis, 34, visited the emergency room at the VA Medical Center in Providence, R.I., on Aug. 23, "complaining of insomnia," the agency said in a statement Wednesday. "After a medical examination, he was given a small amount of medication to help him sleep and was instructed to follow up with a primary care provider," the statement said. On Aug. 28, Alexis sought a medication refill at the emergency room of the VA Medical Center in Washington. There, he "attributed his insomnia to his work schedule," the agency said in its statement. "He was given a small refill and was instructed to follow up with a primary care provider. On both occasions, Alexis was alert and orient-

DOCTOR ON DUTY Oranjestad



Dr. J. Croes

EMERGENCIA

911



| | |
|---------------|----------|
| POLIS | 100 |
| POLIS | 581-1100 |
| ORANJESTAD | 582-4000 |
| NOORD | 587-0009 |
| STA. CRUZ | 585-4710 |
| SAVANETA | 584-7000 |
| SAN NICOLAS | 584-5000 |
| FIRE DEPT. | 115 |
| FIRE DEPT. | 582-1108 |
| POLIS TIPLINE | 11141 |
| HOSPITAL | 527-4000 |
| AMBULANCE | 582-1234 |
| SAN NICOLAS | |
| AMBULANCE | 584-5050 |

PHARMACY

O'STAD: Noord Tel: 586-4606
S. NICOLAS: San Nicolas Tel: 584-5712

SERVICES

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| INFORMATION | 118 |
| SETAR | 582-2116 |
| TAXI | 582-5900 |
| TAXI-TAS | 587-5900 |
| PROF. TAXI | 588-0035 |
| TAXI D.T.S. | 587-2300 |
| SERVICE ARUBA | 583-3232 |

CRUISESHIP

Sep. 23

Monarch

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Aruba Aiport | 524-2424 |
| American Airline | 582-2700 |
| Avianca | 588-0059 |
| Dutch Antilles | 588-1900 |
| Insel Air | 588-9314 |
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NASA rover finds no hint of methane in Mars air

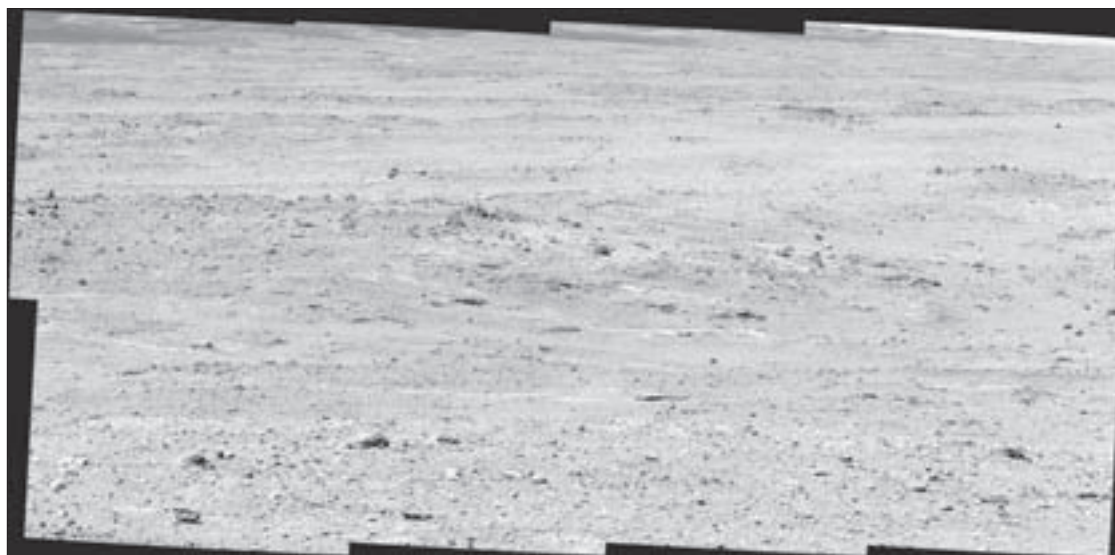
ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — NASA's Curiosity rover hasn't discovered any signs of methane in the atmosphere of Mars, a finding that does not bode well for the possibility that microbes capable of producing the gas could be living below the planet's surface, scientists said Thursday.

Since landing in Gale Crater last year, the car-size rover has gulped Mars air and scanned it with a tiny laser in search of methane. On Earth, most of the gas is a byproduct of life, spewed when animals digest or plants decay.

Curiosity lacks the tools to directly hunt for simple life, past or present. But scientists had high hopes that the rover would inhale methane after orbiting spacecraft and Earth-



This Sept. 7, 2013 image provided by NASA, taken by NASA's Curiosity rover shows a view of Gale Crater near the Mars equator.

Associated Press

based telescopes detected plumes of the gas several years ago.

"If you had microbial life somewhere on Mars that was really healthy and cranking away, you might see some of the signatures of that in the atmosphere,"

said mission scientist Paul Mahaffy of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. During Curiosity's first eight months on the red planet, it sniffed the air during the day and at night as the season changed from spring to summer.

"Every time we looked, we never saw it," said Christopher Webster, of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, who led the research published online in the journal Science.

Webster said while the result was "disappointing in

many ways," the hunt for the elusive gas continues. While methane is linked to living things, it can also be made by non-biological processes.

Mars today is a hostile place — extremely dry and constantly bombarded by radiation. Billions of years ago, the planet boasted a thicker atmosphere and possible lakes. Scientists generally agree that nothing can exist on the Martian surface at present since it's too toxic. If there are living things on Mars, scientists theorize they're likely underground.

Just because Curiosity didn't detect methane near its landing site doesn't mean the gas is not present elsewhere on the planet, said Bill Nye, chief executive of the Planetary Society, a space advocacy group.

"Suppose you're an alien coming to Earth and you landed in the Four Corners area, would you feel as if you've explored the Earth?" he said.

Several years ago, scientists became excited at the prospect of methane-producing microbes after Michael Mumma of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center noticed a mysterious belch of methane from three regions in Mars' western hemisphere. Mumma, who had no role in the latest study, said he stood by his observations.

Earlier this month, Curiosity reached its first rest stop in its long trek toward Mount Sharp, a mountain rising from Gale Crater near the equator. The rover will take monthly readings of the Martian atmosphere during the road trip, expected to last almost a year.

Curiosity previously found evidence of an ancient environment that could have once been suitable for microscopic life. While the latest finding diminishes hope for present-day life, scientists still hope to uncover signs of ancient life by looking for organic compounds at the base of Mount Sharp. □

Archeologists in Brazil find imperial objects

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — An ivory toothbrush thought to have belonged to Brazil's Emperor Pedro II and a minty toothpaste made by a European chemist for the Portuguese queen are among more than 200,000 pieces dating from the 17th through 19th centuries that archeologists have unearthed from a site in Rio de Janeiro being used for an extension the city's subway lines.

A team of more than two dozen archeologists, historians and others began excavating the plot in northern Rio last March. The plot, once the site of a slaughterhouse, is near the former imperial palace and thought to have once been used as a landfill by the imperial family and others, team members said Wednesday.

The area, now a construction site for Rio's massive subway expansion projects, has not only yielded an impressive number of objects but also pieces in remarkably good condition, team leader Claudio Prado de Mello said.

"What is the most impres-



An ivory toothbrush thought to have belonged to Brazil's Emperor Pedro II, is one of many items excavated from a site now being used for the extension of the city's Metro lines, in Rio de Janeiro, Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013. The toothbrush thought to have belonged to Dom Pedro II, who ruled over Brazil from 1831-1889, has turned brown with age, and its boar bristles are long gone, but its inscription remains legible. "His Majesty the Emperor of Brazil," it reads.

Associated Press

sive is the intact state" of many objects, said Mello. "In archeology we usually find very fragmented pieces, but this time we're finding whole objects."

The ivory toothbrush thought to have belonged to Dom Pedro II, who ruled over Brazil from 1831-1889, has turned brown with age. Its boar bristles are long gone, but the inscription remains legible: "His Majesty the Emperor of Brazil." A round white porcelain pot

emblazoned with "to the Queen of Portugal Maria of Saboia" is thought to have contained mint-flavored toothpaste made specially for the queen by a chemist with offices in London and Paris.

The site has also yielded dozens of intact glass and ceramic bottles thought to have once contained water imported from Europe for the imperial family. Six sealed bottles still contain unidentified liquids that the

team plans to send to a laboratory for analysis. Dozens of coins and pipes were also found, along with a golden ring and a tie tack. The excavation area has been covered up pending the subway expansion project, which is scheduled to be ready ahead of the 2016 Olympic games that Rio is hosting. After project's completion, the excavations are to resume, Mello said. □

Carole King is MusiCares person of the year



In this May 22, 2013, file photo, Carole King performs after President Barack Obama presented her with the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Carole King will be honored as the MusiCares person of the year during the 2014 Grammy Awards week. The Recording Academy announced Thursday that King will be saluted by Lady Gaga, the Dixie Chicks, Bette Midler, Steve Tyler,

James Taylor and Jason Mraz, with more to be announced later. Previous honorees include Bruce Springsteen, Paul McCartney and Neil Young. The fundraiser for the academy's charitable foundation will be Jan. 24 in Los Angeles, two nights before

the Grammy Awards. A songwriter and performer with scores of hits from "Will You Love Me Tomorrow" to "You've Got a Friend," King has won four Grammy Awards and was honored with a lifetime achievement award at this year's ceremony. □



In this May 22, 1992 file photo, host Johnny Carson gestures on "The Tonight Show" during his broadcast in Burbank, Calif.

Associated Press

NBC developing Johnny Carson miniseries

NEW YORK (AP) — The late Johnny Carson is coming back to NBC.

The network said Thursday that it is developing a miniseries based on the life of the talk show host, who ruled late-night television as host of the "Tonight" show from 1962 to 1992.

The series will be based on an upcoming biography of Carson by Bill Zehme. It will cover his childhood in Nebraska and his off-screen life as well as the 30 years he spent at the "Tonight" show. The network hasn't cast an actor to play Carson yet.

NBC gave no estimate on when the miniseries might air. □



Vince A. Sicari, a South Hackensack, N.J., Municipal Judge, performs at Carolines on Broadway comedy club in New York, taken in New York. New Jersey's Supreme Court on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013, ordered Sicari.

Associated Press

DAVID PORTER
Associated Press
NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — New Jersey municipal judge Vince Sicari, who is also an established stand-up comedian and actor, resigned Thursday after the state Supreme Court ruled he can't moonlight as an entertainer.

Sicari told The Associated Press he tendered his resignation after the high court released a unanimous opinion that said his acting and comedy career is "incompatible" with judicial conduct codes and essentially gave him the choice of doing one or the other. "I'm not surprised by the

'Joking judge' resigns after losing ruling

result, but I'm very disappointed," Sicari said. "I take great pride in being a judge and to give that up is disappointing."

The 44-year-old lawyer, whose stage name is Vince August, has carved out a career as a comic and actor, appearing on network television, in New York City comedy clubs and as a warm-up for Comedy Central audiences. He was also a part-time municipal judge in South Hackensack, where he handled things like traffic ticket cases and disorderly persons offenses. Several justices had questioned whether the public could separate Sicari's position as a judge from roles he has played on the ABC hidden camera show

"What Would You Do?" in which he has portrayed homophobic and racist characters. That dilemma played a central role in Thursday's ruling, as the justices noted that someone tuning into the show might not know that actors were used in the sketches. They applied the same standard for Sicari's stand-up performances.

"In the course of his routines, Sicari has demeaned certain people based on national origin and religion and has revealed his political leanings," according to the court's opinion. "The court cannot ignore the distinct possibility that a person who has heard a routine founded on humor disparaging certain ethnic

groups and religions will not be able to readily accept that the judge before whom he or she appears can maintain the objectivity and impartiality that must govern all municipal court proceedings."

Sicari, who is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and other professional performers' unions, has said his entertainment work entitles him to health benefits and earns him more than his \$13,000-a-year part-time judge salary. He said during the Supreme Court arguments in February that he was equally passionate about both his jobs and reiterated that Thursday.

"I've been balancing these professions my entire career," he said. □



This CD cover image released by Reimagine Music shows "Esperanza: Songs From Jack Kerouac's Tristessa," features 19 singer-songwriters in a tribute to Jack Kerouac.

Associated Press

DAVID BAUDER
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Several indie rockers have collaborated on a disc that pays tribute to a Jack Kerouac novel — and it's not "On the Road."

The album, which features artists like The Low Anthem, William Fitzsimmons, Lee Ranaldo of Sonic Youth and Tony Dekker of The Great Lake Swimmers, is based on Kerouac's novel "Tristessa," about a drug-

Indie rock disc inspired by Jack Kerouac novel



In this 1967 file photo, author Jack Kerouac laughs during a visit to the home of a friend in Lowell, Mass. Associated Press

addicted Mexican prostitute. The disc, released this week by Reimagine Music, features 19 singer-songwriters and is named "Esperanza: Songs From Jack Kerouac's Tristessa." Esperanza is said

to be the real name of the woman who was Kerouac's inspiration for the story.

The project was pulled together by Jim Sampas, a producer who has specialized in musical tributes. He has made albums with artists interpreting songs on Bob Dylan's "Bringing It All Back Home," Bruce Springsteen's "Nebraska" and the Beatles' "Rubber Soul." He's also a nephew of Kerouac, who died in 1969.

Sampas also produced the documentary "One Fast Move Or I'm Gone: Kerouac's Big Sur" and accompanying album featuring Jay Farrar of Son Volt and Ben Gibbard of Death Cab For Cutie. The response to those projects encouraged him to further explore the musical possibilities around his uncle's work.

"There's a musicality in both his prose and poetry that worked well," he said.

A few of the participating artists followed Sampas' suggestion and recorded songs using the novelist's own words for lyrics. Others were inspired by the story, he said.

Peter Bradley Adams, one of the artists who recorded a song for the tribute, wrote his own lyrics for "She Has to Come Down."

He's a Kerouac fan but said he didn't know "Tristessa" until Sampas contacted him.

"I read it and really responded to it," Adams said. "Despite what everyone says, there are a lot of people who still read books out there," Adams said. "I hope there's a resurgence of awareness about Kerouac." □

Harris, Crowell win 2 trophies at Americana Awards

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer
NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — The power of two voices raised in harmony was on display Wednesday night at the Americana Music Honors & Awards as Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell and the husband-wife duo Shovels & Rope earned top honors. Each duo won two awards during the annual roots rock celebration at Ryman Auditorium. Old friends Harris and Crowell won album of the year for their collaboration "Old Yellow Moon," and duo-group of the year. And Cary Ann Hearst and Michael Trent of Shovels & Rope won song of the year for "Birmingham" and emerging artist of the year. "Old Yellow Moon" was the most recent collaboration in a 40-year friendship between Crowell and Harris, who met in the mid-1970s when Crowell wrote songs for the Country Music Hall of Fame member and joined her band. "Rodney and I, maybe we're just arrogant, but

we feel like we were Americana before it got a name," Harris told the crowd.

First-time nominees Hearst and Trent, from Charleston, South Carolina, performed "Birmingham" for the crowd, and later seemed stunned by their win — which came over The Lumineers' omnipresent hit "Ho Hey."

"Whooooaaa," Trent said before thanking his parents for making the trip down from Michigan. "Our minds are blown," Hearst said. "The mind that we share has exploded."

Dwight Yoakam, whose album "3 Pears" was heralded in the roots music community, won top honor artist of the year. And multi-instrumentalist Larry Campbell was named instrumentalist of the year.

Old Crow Medicine Show won the Trailblazer Award a day after being inducted into the Grand Ole Opry. Stephen Stills received the Spirit of Americana Freedom of Speech award. The Americana Music As-



Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell perform during the Americana Honors and Awards show on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2013, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

sociation honored Duane Eddy, Dr. John, songwriter Robert Hunter and Arhoolie Records founder Chris Strachwitz with lifetime achievement awards. The AMA also recognized Hank

Williams with the President's Award, which was accepted by Williams' daughter, Jett Williams, and his granddaughter, Holly Williams.

"Hank would have been

90 yesterday and it was just bizarre sitting here in an empty Ryman during soundcheck and singing his songs so many years later," Holly Williams told the crowd. □

Losing The Room



MAUREEN DOWD
© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON - On the most deadly day here since Sept. 11, 2001, with the capital reeling over the sadly familiar scene of a mass shooting by a madman, the chief executive stepped to the microphones and captured the heartbreak. It wasn't the chief executive of the nation. It was Dr. Janis Orlowski, the chief operating officer of MedStar Washington Hospital Center, where three of those injured were being treated. "There's something evil in our society that we as Americans have to work to try and eradicate," she said, her voice stoic but laced with emotion. On the day when she announced only hours earlier that she had submitted her resignation to take another job, she continued: "There's something wrong here when we have these multiple shootings, these multiple injuries. There is something wrong, and the only thing that I can say is we have to work together to get rid of it. I would like you to put my trauma center out of business. I really would. I would like to not be an expert on gunshots." Calling it "a challenge to all of us," she concluded: "This is not America." President Barack Obama also gave a speech Monday, talking at the White House while the drama unfolded at the supposedly secure Navy Yard nearby. He could have posted his original remarks on the White House website and replaced them with a *cri de coeur* on gun control, or comfort for the shaken city. The 12 who died were, after all, under his aegis as workers in a federal building. But, jarringly, the president went ahead with his political attack, briefly addressing the slaughter before moving on to job Republicans over the corporate tax rate and resistance to Obamacare. Just as with the address to the nation on Syria last week, the president went ahead with a speech overtaken by events. It was out of joint, given that the Senate was put into lockdown and the Washington Nationals delayed a night game against the Atlanta Braves, noting on its website, "Postponed: Tragedy." The man who connected so electrically and facily in 2008, causing Americans to overlook his thin résumé, cannot seem to connect anymore. With a shrinking circle of trust inside the White House, Obama is having trouble establishing trust outside with once reliable factions: grass-roots Democrats and liberals in Congress. As Peter Baker wrote in *The Times*, the president is finding himself increasing-

ly "frustrated" by the defiance of Democrats who are despairing of his passive, reactive leadership.

Sen. Jon Tester, a Democrat from Montana on the banking committee, told Jonathan Martin for *Politico* in February, after he scraped through to a second term, that the president was not engaged with the Hill, that he had not met with Obama at the White House since 2010, and that he was sorely missing aides like Rahm Emanuel, who tirelessly worked and stroked Democrats in Congress. Tester was one of three Democrats who spurned the president on his favorite to run the Federal Reserve, Larry Summers. The White House didn't call Tester until Friday, when it was too late; Summers was allowed to twist in the wind, like Susan Rice before him.

Top Democrats who used to consider Obama one cool cat now muse that he's "one weird cat," as one big shot put it.

Obama still has a secret weapon: congressional Republicans, who might yet shut down the government or cause a cataclysmic default and make the president look good.

But, for now, puzzlement grows over the contrast between Obama's campaign leaps and his governing lassitude. Obama biographer Richard Wolffe notes that the 2012 campaign had some of the same problems with leadership and direction, but looked good compared with the mid-20th-century Romney crowd, "who couldn't get an app to work." "I don't know who they think they're talking to or what they think they're trying to say," said Wolffe, whose new book is "The Message: The Reselling of President Obama." "The president is a very muddled and entrenched figure who needs to get out of a defensive crouch and get some fresh ideas."

Unlike Bill Clinton, who excels at boiling down complex arguments to simple ones, Obama prefers to wallow in the weeds, reminding people that he's the smartest man in the room and expecting their support because he feels he is only doing what's complicated and right.

But, funnily enough, as Wolffe points out, "he's more like the Clintons than I ever thought this White House would be - with different factions and power bases and personal rivalries."

ABC News' George Stephanopoulos asked the president about criticism of the administration's serpentine Syria policy, citing a frustrated backer of the plan to strike Syria, Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn. Corker said that the careering around left Obama diminished as president, and he observed that the president seemed caged in the role, like he wanted to "slip the noose."

"I think that folks here in Washington like to grade on style," Obama said dismissively of his Syria critics. But why is it so often the president's style to be unable to sell the substance - even on issues where most people agree with him? □



Fawzia's Choice



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF
© 2013 New York Times

ZAATARI REFUGEE CAMP, Jordan - Those Americans who count themselves as "war-weary" should meet Fawzia, a middle-aged woman who made perhaps the most difficult decision any parent can.

Fawzia was among the refugees straggling across the Syria-Jordan border here. She had just arrived on a dangerous week-long journey from Ghouta, a Damascus suburb where nerve gas killed hundreds on Aug. 21. But for Fawzia, chemical weapons are secondary. The real weapons of mass destruction in Syria are the AK-47s, rockets, missiles and bombs. An agreement brokered by the world's powers that is limited to chemical weapons - while useful - seems a bit irrelevant to the atrocities that define the lives of most Syrians.

No one in Fawzia's family was hurt in the chemical weapons attack, but then there was a ferocious conventional shelling of her neighborhood. Her family members scattered in terror, and Mustafa, her 8-year-old son, disappeared. No one knows what happened to him.

Fawzia decided to flee with two children to Jordan, in hopes of saving them, possibly sacrificing Mustafa. She is racked by guilt. The United Nations refugee agency, which runs this Zaatari camp, is accustomed to tragedy. An aid worker gently told her how to register Mustafa's name in case he turns up somewhere.

Talking to Syrians like Fawzia, it seems bizarre and narcissistic that in Washington there is talk of whether the Syrian crisis has been "resolved." Maybe the politicians' crisis there has been eased, but the humanitarian catastrophe here just gets worse. Indeed, in the last couple of weeks, President Bashar Assad seems to have stepped up the pace of bombing, shelling and other conventional attacks on civilian areas.

Fawzia says she would like to see American missile strikes on her country, in hopes that an assault would degrade the Syrian army's capacity for mass murder and shorten the war. That seems by far the most common view among refugees here, although it's not universal. Some worry about civilian casualties or think a strike would be too little, too late.

Whatever one thinks of a military strike to destroy some of Assad's murderous air force - I'm in favor but have very little company in the U.S. - we should find common ground in insisting that international negotiations address not only chemical stockpiles but also humanitarian access in Syria. That would mean demanding that the Syrian government and rebels alike allow aid workers and food and medical assistance across their lines. It's not impossible that both sides would agree under pressure, and that might ease some of the worst suffering within Syria.

Valerie Amos, the United Nations humanitarian chief, tells me that nearly 7 million Syrians will need aid to survive. Humanitarian access could save some of those lives, and also reduce the hemorrhage of refugees.

The United Nations estimates that every 17 seconds another Syrian flees the country, placing almost unbearable strains on Lebanon and Jordan, in particular. Jordan has been remarkably welcoming to Syrian refugees, but public resentment has apparently led the government to tighten the arrival

spigot recently, and many tens of thousands of displaced Syrians are now reportedly stuck on the Syrian side of the border.

One-third of Syrians are now displaced. On an American scale, that would be equivalent to 100 million Americans having fled their homes.

This refugee camp, Zaatari, is already one of the biggest cities in Jordan, and the refugees are tough to manage. A few months ago, they began dismantling a trailer that functioned as a police station. Within hours, there was nothing left; they had stolen an entire police station.

Many refugees told me that everyone in their neighborhoods would relocate to Jordan if it weren't so dangerous to travel. Fareeda al-Hassan, a woman from the city of Hama, had just crossed from Syria with a gaggle of children when I met her. She explained that government bombing had destroyed her home and she had seen pro-government militias behead children, so she paid a guide to smuggle them on a 10-day journey that bypassed government checkpoints.

If soldiers think travelers are headed for Jordan, they sometimes execute them as presumptive traitors.

During the family's journey, a machine-gun post opened fire on their convoy. The two vehicles in front of theirs, a bus and a private car, burst into flames and everyone in them was killed, Hassan said.

Guides ferrying Syrians to Jordan sometimes give small children sleeping pills so that they won't cry from hunger and draw an attack from Syrian troops.

We may not be able to solve Syria's problems. I'm not even certain that we can mitigate them. But we can try, and a starting point would be a big push for humanitarian access.

Maybe that would even allow aid workers to find Mustafa and reunite him with his guilt-ridden mother. □

Groomer Polishes The Looks Of Male Celebrities

BEE SHAPIRO

© 2013 New York Times

When the nine-time Emmy nominee and widely acknowledged dreamboat Jon Hamm sails down the red carpet on Sunday, chances are you will notice his date's dress, makeup and hairstyle more than the particulars of his appearance.

But Hamm will have had his hair carefully styled to look looser than the tightly combed businessman's coif for which he's known on "Mad Men."

"I work with Jon when he's Jon Hamm," said his groomer, Diana Schmidtke. "I don't work with Don Draper. So for me it's always about making him not look too Don Draper. Almost like he just ran his fingers through his hair. Very natural."

Though some men, famous or not, have been boldly stepping out with "guy-liner" and nail polish, we are not quite at the point where Hollywood makeup artists are taking credit for it as they do with women.

Schmidtke, 38, is one of a handful of male celebrity groomers there, a term little heard of 15 years ago (when, she said, photographers would ask her, "What is that, like dog grooming?") but increasingly bandied about in a world of high-definition cameras and metrosexuality. She has tended to the floppy forelocks and five o'clock shadows of not just Hamm but Clint Eastwood, George Clooney, Jimmy Fallon, Viggo Mortensen and Chris Hemsworth, making sure they look like the best versions of themselves for magazine covers, press junkets and award shows. This summer, Schmidtke was in New Mexico, working on her first film, the comedy "A Million Ways to Die in the West," directed by and starring Seth MacFarlane, whom she started working with two years ago and groomed for the Academy Awards in February.

Reviews of MacFarlane's Oscars hosting stint were mixed, but thanks to the Peter Thomas Roth anti-shine

gel Schmidtke smeared on his T-zone, no one could say he was shiny. On a typical celebrity booking, Schmidtke starts with an old-fashioned barber shave. Next come the eyebrows, a potential minefield. "The quickest way to feminize a man's face is to over-groom the eyebrow," she said. "You can do above the brow, but when you start to take too much

it helps the glide of the blade, ding ding ding, they understand what it means," she said.

Within the industry, Schmidtke is praised as much for her demeanor as for any specific ministrations. "I always trust that Diana will make my clients look and feel their best," said Robin Baum, a Hollywood publicist who has worked with Hemsworth,

and moved west in 1997, working for a pricey Beverly Hills salon. "I wasn't used to that type of clientele," she said. "Everything was so shiny and new, the beautiful people and the cars. I failed."

But an apprenticeship with Marvin Lynch, then a successful hairstylist, led to representation by the Celestine Agency (she has since moved to the Wall Group),

by reading men's fashion and grooming blogs. Though Schmidtke's work sometimes involves the more traditional process of putting a client into character, as she did with Clooney for a Cary Grant-style Vanity Fair shoot, she also enjoys watching the application of television trends to real life (the "Boardwalk Empire," shaved close with an undercut while leaving



Diana Schmidtke, a groomer for male celebrities, at The Art of Shaving in New York. Schmidtke, who's worked with the likes of Jon Hamm and George Clooney, tries to make her clients look like the best versions of themselves for magazine covers, media junkets and award shows.

(Damon Winter/The New York Times)

underneath or create any type of arch, boom, he starts to look like a girl." She prefers plucking the brow to waxing, which she said removes too much, and also uses tweezers to tackle stray nose and ear hairs. Then she applies concealer (no Pan-Cake, please!) and mattifying lotion - more guy-friendly than powder puffs, she said - as needed. In fact, Schmidtke is sensitive to all sorts of macho preferences. For example, she'll boil down beauty lingo into action words. "Pre-shave oil" may not register with guys, but "if you say

Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom and James Franco. "She has great energy." The photographer Mark Seliger, who has worked with Schmidtke for 14 years on shoots for MacFarlane, Will Ferrell and others, praised Schmidtke's "fun and positivity." But the groomer characterized her rapport with A-list actors another way: "I'm a little crass at times," she said.

Schmidtke became interested in hairdressing after modeling for Nexus at age 16, attended Pivot Point beauty school in Chicago

which booked her on music shoots. "I had every intention to do girl hair, but it just wouldn't click with actresses," Schmidtke said. In 1999, after an assigned groomer didn't show, she was pulled into a shoot with David Boreanaz of "Angel." In thanks for the favor, Boreanaz's publicist next called on Schmidtke to groom Chris Klein for his "American Pie" press tour. "Then all the mayhem started," she said. "I loved it. I was young and my job was making hot guys hotter." She studied the history of shaving and stays current

a floppy 4 to 5 inches on top, was popular this summer, she said). And while her work revolves around famous faces, Schmidtke is pleased to see companies making more grooming solutions for everyday Joes. (One of her career high points, she said, was in 2009 when she made over husbands on "The Oprah Winfrey Show.") But getting a man, even one who banks on his image, to change his regimen is almost always an uphill battle, Schmidtke said. "With guys you, have to keep it simple." □